

Jordan Times

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U.N. to send 30 observers to South Africa
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali plans to send 30 U.N. observers permanently to South Africa to monitor the transition to a democratic government. The U.N. chief made the recommendation to the Security Council, based on a report by his special envoy to South Africa, Cyrus Vance, a former U.S. secretary of state. The observers, Dr. Ghali told the council, would draw on the experience of 10 temporary observers recently sent to South Africa to monitor a series of black-led strikes and protest rallies this week against President F.W. de Klerk's white-minority government (see page 8). He advised the South African government to direct the Goldstone Commission, an independent judicial committee looking into acts of violence and intimidation, to broaden its focus. "I recommend that the Goldstone Commission undertake a series of investigations into the functioning and operations of certain agencies, (including) the army and police," he said.

Iraq rejects human rights report
NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq Saturday dismissed a U.N. human rights report that called for protection of the Shiite Muslim population in the south as "full of lies," the Iraqi News Agency said. The agency said Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahhaf accused investigator Max Van Der Stoep of being "biased and violating his terms of reference." Mr. Van Der Stoep "is carrying out a role assigned to him in the anti-Iraq campaign led by the United States," the minister said in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. Mr. Van Der Stoep, a former Dutch foreign minister, was appointed by the United Nations after the end of the Gulf war to investigate human rights. On Friday, he issued a report accusing Iraq of serious violations of human rights in its crackdown on the Shiite rebels and civilians sheltering in the southern marshes. He also renewed his recommendation for the United Nations to establish a permanent presence to monitor human rights violations in Iraq, which he described in an earlier report as extensive. Mr. Sahhaf said in his letter that the crackdown was aimed at "groups who are either linked with or sent by Iran to carry out acts of killings, sabotage or looting" and "to destabilize Iraq's domestic situation."

Hamas scores win in university polls

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Saturday scored an overwhelming victory in the election of the student union council, Al Quds Press reported. The agency said 87.8 of the 304 eligible voters cast their ballots Saturday. It said Hamas won 65.6 per cent of the total number of votes, against 43.4 for its rivals, "the Martyrs of the Black Panther and the Red Eagle bloc, which supports the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction for the Liberation of Palestine (FPLP). This election is the first since the student council was resolved in 1967, Al Quds press said.

Assad to visit Iran

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad will make his second visit to Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution in the near future, according to his spokesman. Mr. Assad accepted an invitation from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani during talks with Iranian Vice-President Hassan Habibi, spokesman Joubran Komrigh told Reuters. The Syrian president "promised to pay the visit soon," he said, adding that the two men discussed developments in the Middle East and the Gulf. Mr. Assad, who supported Iran during its eight-year war with Iraq, made his first visit in 1990.

Policeman shot dead in Algiers street

ALGERIA (R) — Three armed men killed a policeman in a busy street in an eastern suburb of Algiers on Saturday, an evening newspaper said. The daily El Messa said the policeman, in civilian clothes, was shot in the head 200 metres from a police station in the Hussein Dey district. It said his attackers disappeared into the crowd. A police spokesman confirmed the death but gave no details. More than 100 members of the security forces have been killed since cancellation of general elections in January.

Clergymen accuse Bhutto of blasphemy

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Islamic scholars accused opposition leader Benazir Bhutto on Saturday of blasphemy for opposing the proposed introduction of strict Islamic law and asked her to repent. A pro-government group, headed by Religious Affairs Minister Abdul Sattar Khan Khattak, attacked Ms. Bhutto in a resolution for rejecting a proposed constitutional amendment to enforce the Islamic code of Sharia. Under Sharia, convicted thieves can have their right hand cut off. Murderers and drug traffickers can be beheaded under the code.

Explosion kills 32 in Turkish factory

ISTANBUL (R) — Thirty-two workers were killed and 54 injured in an explosion at a textiles factory in northwestern Turkey on Saturday, Turkish Television said. The blast took place in the dining hall of Konyali Mensucat Fabrikasi's factory in Corlu township while workers were having lunch, it said. It gave no cause for the explosion.

Kuwait navy trains to tackle 'infiltrators'

KUBBAR ISLAND, Kuwait (R) — Kuwaiti conscripts practised board and search drills on a captured Iraqi speedboat Saturday then blew it to bits with bullets and rocket-propelled grenades. Brandishing pistols and M-16 rifles, a handful of Kuwaitis took turns leaping onto the speedboat and subduing its two occupants after a demonstration by U.S. troops taking part in joint exercises. Gingerly, they inspected the boat's engine and cabin room and took its "crew" prisoner before rigging away and shooting the boat to bits. The exercise, in the waters off Kubbar Island about 20 miles southwest of Kuwait, is part of a month-long series of wargames involving U.S. and Kuwaiti forces.

U.N. team begins new Iraq mission today; prospects uncertain

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. inspectors delayed their search for weapons materials by one day and worked in their hotel Saturday because of an Iraqi national holiday. The 22-member, Russian-led team was now set to start its inspection of Iraqi facilities Sunday amid suspense over the targets it would select. Iraq served advance notice that access to ministries would be forbidden. Team leader Nikita Smidovich has affirmed his right to search any designated site, and President George Bush has warned he firmly backs that right. In Kuwait, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah told the Associated Press that the next 48 hours would be "critical" for enforcing Gulf war ceasefire terms. Sheikh Saad, who is also prime minister, said he believed a "quick" response would be needed if Iraq defied the United Nations (see page 2). Team leaders do not disclose the sites they will inspect until the last moment, to preclude spitting away of prohibited material before they reach it. Rolf Ekens, chairman of the inspectors' special commission, has said his teams have the right to inspect all relevant sites, even the presidential palace. President Saddam Hussein, marking the fourth anniversary of the end of Iraq's eight-year war with Iran, told Iraqis on Saturday that they should resist their enemies. He made no mention of the U.N. or of U.S. threats of force, but official newspapers kept up a campaign of rhetoric against the inspectors and one member of the team said anonymous telephone callers had woken them during the night and insulted them. "Let the despicable be repelled," President Saddam said at the end of a low-key speech praising the war with Iran and the "mother of all battles" — Iraq's name for the Gulf war last year. "The mother of all battles broke open the prisons of self, setting the Arab free and exercising its great role in liberating humanity from the complex of fear, timidity, weakness and guilt," he said earlier in the speech. Nikita Smidovich, Russian head of the U.N. team, apparently did not know of the holiday when he arrived and said inspections would start on Saturday after talks with Iraqi officials. Iraq declared ministries off-limits to U.N. teams on Thursday, prompting the United States to renew threats of military action to force compliance with the ceasefire terms. Mr. Smidovich's team is the first to enter Iraq since inspectors searched the Ministry of Agriculture on July 28 and 29 after the most serious confrontation yet between the U.N. and Baghdad over the scrapping of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. That search followed a three-week standoff between Iraq and the United Nations over the building. U.N. inspectors who first tried to enter did not know it was a government ministry. The inspectors left the ministry empty-handed. Diplomats in Baghdad say the U.N. teams at times appear to receive prior intelligence about Iraq and where to look before arriving in Baghdad from their headquarters in Bahrain. Mr. Smidovich, the first Russian to head a U.N. inspection team in Iraq, has refused to reveal whether his team would take up the Iraqi challenge and try to search ministries. A second U.N. team worked as normal on Saturday at a site northwest of Baghdad destroying rockets, part of Iraq's arsenal of weapons filled with nerve and mustard gas. "Iraq used U.S.-built plant" U.S. authorities suspected in 1989 that a plant being built for Iraq by an Alabama company was part of Baghdad's ambitious weapons programme, but they did little to discourage its construction, the Los Angeles Times reported on Friday. After the Gulf war, U.N. inspectors hunting for Iraqi weapons facilities discovered the carbide-tool manufacturing plant was part of Iraq's main nuclear arms complex, the newspaper said. The inspectors blew up the factory, located south-west of Baghdad, after determining it had been used in Iraq's effort to build a nuclear bomb, the Los Angeles Times reported, citing U.N. documents. The newspaper said newly obtained records showed that the U.S. government suspected by the fall of 1989 the true purpose of the \$14 million plant being built by XYZ Options Inc of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The Commerce Department blocked the export of a key piece of machinery for the plant because the device was advanced enough to machine missile parts and nuclear-related components, the Los Angeles Times said. But the government did nothing to withhold export licences for other essential components, which were shipped to Iraq, it reported. When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the plant was virtually complete and capable of turning out military goods as well as consumer products.

Rabin in New York, meets U.S. chief

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, keen to mend ties with Washington and spur Middle East peace progress, has met with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. Mr. Rabin's talks with Dr. Ghali dealt with the Mideast peace process and Israeli service-men missing in action. Mr. Rabin said he asked the U.N. chief, a former Egyptian diplomat, to appoint a new special representative to try to guarantee their return. Giandomenico Picco, the former special envoy for Middle East hostage negotiations under Javier Perez de Cuellar, left the United Nations for private business only months after Dr. Ghali took over as secretary-general. Israel is particularly eager to win the release of navigator Ron Arad, who has been missing for six years and is presumed held by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon. Israel is also conclusive proof about the fate of three soldiers missing from the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, and two soldiers believed killed in southern Lebanon in 1986 in an ambush. Arad's wife, Tami, also met with Dr. Ghali to give him a painting by daughter Yuval, who has not seen her father since she was a few months old. Mrs. Arad said she asked "the U.N. secretary-general and the American government to help bring my husband home." The newly elected Rabin is scheduled to meet early next week with President George Bush, hoping to obtain administration approval for a \$10 billion loan guarantee to help settle Soviet Jewish immigrants. The eight-day visit also includes a scheduled meeting Wednesday with Democratic Presidential candidate Bill Clinton in Washington. Mr. Rabin's new government has made a series of moves aimed at winning U.S. support for the loan guarantees. The Bush administration denied the guarantees

Israel says Gaza activists captured

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli security forces captured members of a Palestinian cell responsible for the deaths of at least three Israelis and 20 Arabs in the occupied Gaza Strip, the army said on Saturday. The three, activists in the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas organisation, were captured on July 30 in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank along with weapons and ammunition. "The three suspects... were active in a military cell named Izzadina Qassam, which was behind a long list of very serious attacks," an army statement said. The list includes the shooting to death of an Israeli livestock trader in the occupied Gaza Strip on May 17, and the stabbing to death of two Jewish merchants in Gaza on June 25. The army statement said the three had personally interrogated dozens of Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel and killed at least 20. Among those were two Gaza residents killed on June 11, whose bodies were dumped outside the home of a Palestinian journalist who had spoken out against collaborator killings, the statement said. The men were captured in a safe house in Ramallah, and simultaneously several Hamas activists were arrested in the Gaza Strip, the army said. Army officials did not release the names of the captured men. In the Ramallah apartment, troops and agents of the Shin Bet security service found a Carl Gustav rifle, ammunition, knives and forged ID cards, the army said. Another weapons depot containing four assault rifles, grenades and ammunition was uncovered near the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza, the statement said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday meets with a group of Jordanian ambassadors (Petra photo)

Crown Prince outlines ways and means to boost Jordanian and Arab cases

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received Saturday at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) a group of Jordanian ambassadors and briefed them on the situation in the region, with particular emphasis on the Middle East peace process and Jordan's stand on the issue. Prince Hassan stressed at the three-hour meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, that the Dome of the Rock restoration project is solely a Jordanian affair. He said the issue of political sovereignty and Islamic holy places inside the walls of Jerusalem and in Palestine was nonnegotiable at present. The Crown Prince outlined to the ambassadors ways of highlighting Jordanian and Arab causes, taking into consideration the background of a host of issues facing Jordan. Jordan, Prince Hassan said, had started long ago, before the Gulf crisis, to restructure its national economy. This was clearly manifested in the work of the Jordanian institutions in the pre-war era and the so-called political economy as well as in a report prepared by United Nations' special envoy Jean Ripert, on reparations for Jordan, Prince Hassan said. In this regard, Prince Hassan noted that the new national planning for next year, following the Gulf crisis and the recent developments, will be prepared by three working groups. These will deal with infrastructure, investment and social work, the Crown Prince said. He affirmed that the government will respect and honour the new plan. The ambassadors were also briefed on the developments in the bilateral and multilateral peace talks and the activities of the working groups on environment, population, development, economic cooperation, disarmament, regional security and water.

Shbeilat says 'corruption' investigations to continue, panel needs more power

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The indictment of a former minister by the Lower House of Parliament last week was only the first step towards unveiling past corruption cases in Jordan, the head of the House Investigations Committee said Saturday. Deputy Leith Shbeilat (Amman) also said the committee needs more jurisdiction to help it along in its appointed task of bringing to book all officials involved in corruption and misuse of public funds. "We are determined to pursue corruption cases and the committee's position will be presented to the House on Wednesday," Mr. Shbeilat told the Jordan Times in an interview. The independent Islamist deputy presented the committee's recommendation to the House three weeks ago that former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai, former Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and former Public Works Minister Mahmoud Hawamdeh be indicted for alleged misuse of public funds in a road contract project. The recommendation was only partially endorsed by the House after two marathon sessions debate. Only the motion against Mr. Hawamdeh was approved with the required majority in a House voting Monday and the motions against Mr. Rifai and Mr. Odeh could not muster enough votes in support. The committee recommendations were related to a JD 35 million contract to build a 180-kilometre stretch of the Al Jafra-Azraq highway awarded to an Indian company in 1987. Supporters of the indicted Hawamdeh — particularly from his hometown of Tafleh — have rejected Parliament's decision to clear the other two former officials, and are now calling for clearing him as well. In his interview with the Jordan Times on Saturday, Mr. Shbeilat described the demands to clear Mr. Hawamdeh as "regression to tribalism," but said their demands that the House should have indicted all three former officials were "reasonable." Some observers believe that cases as the Al Jafra-Azraq highway case could split the country. But Mr. Shbeilat insisted that the deputies had a responsibility to their constituents to fight corruption in pre-democracy Jordan as they promised during the 1989 elections campaign. "It was my duty to take (the Al Jafra-Azraq highway) case to Parliament," Mr. Shbeilat told the Jordan Times. "I was not politicking; I was just following my



Leith Shbeilat

Arafat: Israel must quit Arab territories

RABAT (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who conferred with King Hassan of Morocco on Friday night, said Israel must withdraw from all occupied territories including Arab East Jerusalem. In a statement to Moroccan television on arrival, Mr. Arafat said Palestinians were ready for peace talks, but on the basis of land for peace, not on Israeli conditions. He said the Palestinians were prepared to pursue peace talks in accordance with the initiative of U.S. President George Bush and implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Mr. Arafat said this implied that Israel "must withdraw from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Holy Jerusalem," and the achievement of the Palestinians' legitimate political rights. He added all these conditions were included in the letter of guarantees sent by Moscow and Washington to the Palestinians when they were invited to Middle East peace talks last year. After talks with King Hassan, a close friend of President Bush, Mr. Arafat attended a working session with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali and Farouk Kaddoumi, chief of the PLO's Political Department. In Tunis, the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction is charting strategy for a new round of peace talks with Israel and a militant Muslim group urged delegates to use armed struggle instead of negotiation. Members of the 104-strong Fatah Revolutionary Council were Friday handed a paper produced by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) calling for Palestinian unity to "liberate all of Palestine." "The armed struggle is the only way to free Palestine and the way of negotiations is a defeatist one that is not approved by our people," said the paper, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters. Although banned from taking part, Fatah is the driving force behind Palestinian participation in the U.S.-sponsored peace talks, which will resume in Washington on Aug. 24. Palestinian sources said the council's meeting was opened by Mr. Arafat, who presented a report on the Middle East peace talks and the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories. The meeting was expected to discuss organisation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip once the Israelis and Palestinians reach agreement on limited self-rule, which the PLO expects in November, the sources said. Hamas and Fatah are now observing a shaky truce after clashes last month between their members in the occupied Gaza Strip in which a boy was killed and at least 150 wounded. In its paper Hamas proposed setting up a joint committee with Fatah to prevent internal fighting in the future, saying differences should be resolved through dialogue.



Yasser Arafat

Rocket attacks continue to rock Afghan capital

KABUL (R) — Rival Afghan Mujahadeen factions traded heavy artillery fire in the capital Kabul on Saturday and dissident guerrillas pounded the city centre with rockets, killing at least 24 people and injuring more than 50. A Defence Ministry spokesman blamed the headline Hezb-e-Islami group for the rocket bombardment. "A rocket landed in the presidential grounds," the spokesman said. "It killed eight security guards and injured 12 others." State-run Kabul Radio said 24 people were killed and 53 injured by rockets raining down on the city centre. Doctors reported at least 70 casualties, including nine dead, in similar attacks on Friday. The Hezb-e-Islami, a partner in Afghanistan's three-month-old Islamic government, has been shelling the city and the airport from bases to the south of the city for several days. It said it was returning fire after coming under attack from pro-government forces. "Yesterday they were shelling us from the airport and other areas and we replied," Hezb spokesman Haji Zabihullah said. "But we were not involved in today's fighting. That was Inshad-e-Islami" shelling from areas near us." The echo of rockets and shells from mountains surrounding Kabul made it difficult to pinpoint the source of the attacks. The Defence Ministry spokesman said the headline Hezb-e-Islami and the mainly Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat were involved in the renewed fighting that erupted in the west of the city in the afternoon. Columns of smoke could be seen rising from several buildings, a large fire was burning and black clouds marked what residents said had been a fuel depot. Many buildings in the west of the city have already been destroyed in earlier clashes between the two rival Mujahadeen groups, also partners in the coalition government. The fighting may have caused "large-scale death and destruction," the Hezb-run Afghan News Agency (ANA) said in a report circulated in neighbouring Pakistan. Kabul's airport was closed for the third successive day after Hezb leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar threatened this week to shoot down any planes attempting to use it (see page 2).

U.S. seen leaning more towards force in Bosnia

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. policymakers are increasingly inclined to believe the international community will have to use force in Bosnia-Herzegovina but the Defence Department remains strongly resistant and President George Bush seems uncertain, a senior administration official says. The official, interviewed by Reuters on Friday, described continued division within the U.S. administration even as Mr. Bush this week threw his weight behind quick approval of a long delayed U.N. Security Council resolution authorising all necessary means to get relief supplies to civilians in war-torn Bosnia. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was still a question whether the resolution would be drafted to cover the use of force to open reported "death camps," as well as to protect humanitarian aid deliveries, which was the resolution's initial purpose. Key allies Britain and France are resisting a use of force resolution. Turkey has proposed a plan including limited air strikes if non-military measures fail, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said. "Our action plan consists of a series of non-military measures, which if they do not succeed, would be followed by certain military ones. The military steps envisaged, basically involve a limited air strike and avoid ground or protracted warfare," the text said. Mr. Cetin gave no more details. Mr. Bush Thursday asked for quick U.N. action to authorise the use of force to get aid to civilians. NATO members agreed to work out contingency plans. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater planned to meet Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and United Nations envoy Alexander Watson for approximately one hour beginning at 3:00 p.m. EDT. Mr. Bush planned to brief reporters afterwards, Mr. Fitzwater said. Mr. Bush, who is under mounting political pressure from Democratic challenger Bill Clinton and others to take firm action to end the Bosnian crisis, said on Friday that the United States was taking "complex and strong steps" to deal with the situation.

Kuwait sees 'crucial 48 hours'

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's crown prince said Saturday that the next 48 hours will be crucial in determining whether force or other measures are necessary to make Iraq obey the Gulf war ceasefire terms.

Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah, who is also prime minister, said in an interview with the Associated Press that he believed a "quick" response would be needed if Iraq defies the U.N. "If he (Iraq) insists (it) will not implement the Security Council resolutions, then one is obliged to use any way to force (it) to change (its) policy," said the crown prince, who rarely grants interviews to foreign journalists. Sheikh Saad said the next 48 hours should show what stand Iraq will take. He pointed out that the Iraqi asked a United Nations inspection team that reached Baghdad Friday not to start field work until Sunday because Saturday was a national holiday marking the end of the 1980-88 war with Iran. Iraq has also said that ministries cannot be inspected.

Sheikh Saad said the use of force or other measures will have to be determined by the United Nations. "There are many means and ways to be tried, bearing in mind the innocent Iraqi people," he said.

But any delay would be dangerous, he said. Iraq "will start building (its) army, (it) will start making all sorts of chemical weapons and so forth," Sheikh Saad said.

The deadline comes while elaborate war games are under way in Kuwait involving the local military and about 1,500 U.S. marines. The noise from their airplanes and other training exercises occasionally has Kuwaitis nervously turning to their radios to make sure it is not a repeat of Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990 invasion.

Sheikh Saad stressed that the manoeuvres are part of an exercise previously planned under the 10-year cooperation agreement signed in September 1991 with the United States, but the message should not be lost on Iraq. "If (Iraq) is dreaming about launching another attack against Kuwait, the Kuwaiti people, along with their brother and friendly countries, they will be ready to give (it) a good lesson this time," he said.

Kuwait usually refers to its Arab coalition partners during the Gulf war as brothers and the rest of the 30-odd nations as friendly.

Western military and diplomatic officials have said that any military action against Iraq is likely to come from the carrier USS Independence now in the Gulf or other sea-based power. The U.S. forces in Kuwait, expected to include up to 5,000 men over the next few weeks, are seen as an insurance policy against any reaction from Iraq should military action be taken, they said. The crown prince noted that Kuwaitis will never feel secure as long as Saddam Hussein remains president.

"As long as this man is in power, supported by his regime, I believe Kuwait and all the states in the Gulf will not witness any sort of stability or security," he said. On domestic matters, Sheikh Saad said that the parliamentary elections would go ahead in October, as announced, but would not set a specific date.

He said that those campaigning should bear in mind Kuwait's security concerns when attacking government policy.

"We should not give the image to the enemy of Kuwait to say 'ah, this is my opportunity' to do what he likes in Kuwait," said the crown prince.

Opposition groups have criticised the government for not giving them the right to organise as formal political parties.

Justice minister says Iraq is ready to defend its sovereignty

QUITO (Agencies) — Iraq's justice minister, reiterating his government will never let inspectors search its ministries for arms, said on Friday that Iraq is prepared to defend its sovereignty until "the last drop of blood."

Shibib Al Maliki told reporters in Quito, Ecuador, that Iraq has complied with U.N. resolutions to destroy weapons and is denying access to inspectors not because it is hiding weapons but as a symbol to protect its sovereignty.

"We will not in the future allow the entrance to our ministries because they are symbols of national sovereignty," Mr. Maliki said on a visit to attend Monday's swearing-in of Ecuador's newly elected government.

"Iraq is ready to defend its sovereignty until the last drop of blood of the Iraqi people," he added. "The people are with us. They believe in us."

A U.N. arms inspection team due to begin work in Iraq on Saturday agreed to a one-day postponement after being told that was a national holiday.

Before the inspectors arrived, Baghdad had warned that the ministries were off limits, and the U.N. has not disclosed which facilities it intends searching.

Mr. Maliki said Iraqi authorities would allow inspectors to search other unspecified sites.

The government of President Saddam Hussein could easily have withdrawn any weapons from the ministries in the past several months to be hidden in another location, he said.

"We have fulfilled all the resolutions," Mr. Maliki said. "We have destroyed more than was asked for."

U.S. President George Bush said on Friday that he was "absolutely certain" that Iraq would comply with Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"I can't tell how much of this is bluster, how much on their part is determination to provoke confrontation," Mr. Bush said.

While not making any specific threats, Mr. Bush told a White House news conference: "They are going to comply with these resolutions. I'm absolutely certain."

Food stocks exhausted for 350,000 in besieged Juba

NAIROBI (AP) — Fighting over the southern Sudanese capital Juba has prevented relief agencies from delivering emergency supplies to the city's 350,000 people for three weeks and food stocks are exhausted, aid workers said Friday.

A U.N. official warned that if food was not brought to the city soon, people would begin to die. "People cannot survive for weeks and weeks without food," said the World Food Programme official who spoke on condition he not be identified further.

Juba, the largest city in southern Sudan and a major government military headquarters, has been under attack since July 6 by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The United Nations and the Lutheran World Federation, the prime relief groups feeding Juba, have been unable to maintain their daily airlifts to the city since July 18 because of the danger and the lack of permission from either Sudan's government or the rebels.

The insurgents have shot down several Sudanese aircraft and have threatened to shoot down any plane that flies into the city without their permission.

Bob Koepf, of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), said his organisation was trying to arrange for a plane carrying 32 tonnes of relief food to reach the

city by this weekend, but that they understood Juba's airport had been closed.

There are no telecommunications in southern Sudan and getting information from or about Juba is difficult.

"It's a very, very confused situation," said Mr. Koepf. "If there is no agreement for the United Nations and LWF to at least have a window — a couple of hours a day — it will be an absolute disaster," said the U.N. official.

Most of the city's residents have deserted their houses for the relative safety of buildings in the city's centre to escape the rebel bombardment, but still many are being caught in the crossfire and hundreds have been wounded, said Mr. Koepf.

The United Nations had been flying food to Juba from Sudan's capital, Khartoum, but decided to move the relief operation to Entebbe, Uganda, after Sudan's government misused a plane bearing U.N. markings.

The government used an Ilyushin 76 cargo plane bearing U.N. markings for military flights to Juba after the United Nations' charter for the craft had expired but before its official insignia had been removed.

The rebels took up arms in 1983 against Sudan's Muslim-dominated government seeking greater autonomy and economic development.

of that.

"We will speak with the measured confidence of a nation and a community of nations that is totally dedicated to seeing every single one of these United Nations resolutions fully in force," the president said.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters Thursday: "No one should be of any apprehension that there are not ways to seek a very forceful compliance with these resolutions."

The United States has some 40 warships near Iraq. Two are aircraft carriers with more than 150 planes between them. The U.S. air force has dozens of aircraft within striking distance of Iraq.

Iraq's newspapers have said Baghdad was stronger and more confident than ever despite U.N. sanctions, the Gulf war over Kuwait last year and its eight-year conflict with Iran which ended in August 8, 1988.

"Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Hussein, was able to confront and resist threats though they were very big," the ruling Baath Party daily Al Thawra said in a commentary looking ahead to Saturday's anniversary of the end of war with Iran.

"Despite the unjust (U.N. trade) embargo and all attempts against Iraq by its enemies, Iraq has emerged successful from this hard test and stronger and more confident," Al Thawra said.

The government-owned Al Iraq newspaper predicted Saturday that President "Bush will drink from the same cup of poison" as the now-deceased Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini did in the war with Iraq.

The Defence Ministry daily Al Qadisiyah said the inspectors were the latest phase of a plot by Iran, the NATO Western alliance, Israel and "Arab traitors" that was bound to fail.

"Bush, Bush, listen well. We all love Saddam Hussein," chanted dozens of children from the ruling Baath Party's youth wing at Baghdad's Martyrs' Monument during ceremonies for "Victory Day." The children wore uniforms and camouflaged caps.

Kabul airport remains closed amid fighting

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani delayed a planned visit to Iran on Saturday because of guerrilla threats which have closed Kabul airport, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

Mr. Rabbani was due to arrive in Tehran on a two-day visit at the invitation of Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

IRNA, received in Cyprus, said no new date had been announced for the visit.

Kabul airport was closed on Thursday after a threat by hard-line guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to shoot down planes approaching or leaving the Afghan capital.

The Afghan government said it was continuing negotiations with Mr. Hekmatyar to resolve the issue.

Mr. Hekmatyar, whose Hezb-e-Islami party is a partner in Afghanistan's three-month-old Islamic government, said the airport was being used by the military to threaten positions held by his party.

Scores of people were killed or wounded in fresh rocket and artillery duels between government forces and dissident guerrillas in Kabul, both sides reported.

They blamed each other for starting the fighting on Thursday night which continued for several hours until early on Friday.

Doctors reported at least 70 casualties, including nine people killed.

Hezb-e-Islami, which fought the duels with the pro-government forces, said at least 19 people were killed and 40 injured in the areas it controls south of Kabul.

"Unaccounted number of people were also reported dead or injured in the militia-controlled areas where the militia launched a drive to evict different Mujahideen groups," the Hezb-run Afghan News Agency (ANA) said.

Hospitals were finding it difficult to cope with a flood of casualties, doctors said.

Forty casualties, including two dead, were received at the city's Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital which was running out of oxygen, serum, antibiotics and bandages, doctors there said.

"Patients are only being given local anaesthetics and many have to be sent home after operations because of lack of beds," one doctor said.

Government sources said nearly 40 rockets fell in the area of Kabul airport.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the firing had come from Hezb positions southwest of Kabul.

ANA, in a report circulated in neighbouring Pakistan, said the Uzbek militia from northern Afghanistan had launched a major offensive against Hezb positions and the Hezb Mujahideen returned the fire.

It said exact losses inside the city and in suburban areas could not be ascertained immediately, but quoted eyewitnesses as saying the death toll could be very high.

"The situation in the city remained highly tense throughout the day today and people were running for their lives in different parts of the city," ANA said.

The Hezb, whose nominee Abdul Saboor Farid is prime minister in the coalition government of various Mujahideen factions, says authorities had hatched a plot to bomb its positions. Mr. Farid was in Pakistan on a private visit Friday.

The Hezb wants the Uzbek militia commanded by General Abdul Rashid Dostum to be withdrawn from Kabul. Gen. Dostum precipitated the fall of the formerly communist government

Armed police storm Algiers mosque, detain about 100

ALGIERS (Agencies) — More than 50 armed police stormed an Algiers mosque on Friday and arrested about 100 supporters of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), witnesses said.

They said police surrounded the Al Sunna mosque in the fundamentalist bastion of Bab El Oued during Friday prayers for about an hour and a half, then entered the building firing warning shots.

"We will not leave until the police withdraw from the streets around the mosque," the preacher said at the end of his sermon.

As police fired shots to silence four loudspeakers on the roof of the three-storey mosque, worshippers chanted "for the FIS we live, for it we die."

More than 3,000 people crowded into the streets round the mosque, one of the few still in FIS hands, but were dispersed by warning shots.

Witnesses said about 800 worshippers left the mosque in two lines surrounded by police. Some stood against a wall while their identity was checked. About 100 were detained.

A policeman died after he was shot near the mosque on July 30. The district is tense and young bearded fundamentalists have begun erecting barricades.

The FIS was banned in March after authorities cancelled elec-

tions in January which the party was set to win. The government has blamed its supporters for a wave of violence since then.

Police Friday combed central Algiers for gunmen who opened fire on security forces deployed near the main post office, one of the capital's main landmarks and target of repeated bomb threats.

There were no injuries among the security forces, police said. It was unknown if anyone else was hurt.

The violence comes amid rising tension between police and Islamic radicals since Mohammed Boudiaf, leader of the military-dominated High State Council, was assassinated June 29.

Several leaders of armed Islamic bands who have attacked security forces since January have recently been reported killed for captured, along with dozens of followers.

Mr. Boudiaf was allegedly machine-gunned by Second-Lieutenant Lembarak Boumaaraf, a member of the Algerian special forces assigned to guard him, during a speech in Annaba, eastern Algeria.

An investigative commission said that Lt. Boumaaraf was the triggerman for a conspiracy whose leaders were not identified. Ten other people, including the heads of the special forces and presidential guards, have been arrested.

Iranian opposition figure found killed in Germany

BONN (R) — Fereyduan Farokhzad, a well-known Iranian singer and opposition figure in exile, was found stabbed to death in his flat in Bonn this week, police said on Saturday.

They said a murder investigation had been launched after investigators discovered the body of Mr. Farokhzad, 48, on Friday after neighbours reported barking by his two dogs.

Police, who did not comment on a motive for the killing, said Mr. Farokhzad was last seen alive walking the dogs on Monday and appeared to have been slain shortly afterwards.

Mr. Farokhzad, a popular singer and nightclub entertainer in Iran under the pro-Western

Shah's rule, fled abroad after the fundamentalist Muslim revolution of 1978-79.

He picked up his career among expatriate Iranian communities in the West and was active in groups working for an end to radical Islamic rule in Iran.

Iranian exile groups said he had been targeted by the Tehran government.

"He worked openly for the liberation of the Persian people from the mullah dictatorship. His fearlessness and popularity made him a target of attacks by radical fundamentalists, to whom he has now fallen victim," the German chapter of the World Association of Iranian Women in Solidarity said.

U.N. chief hopes for direct talks on Cyprus

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, who has been holding separate talks with the leaders of the two Cypriot communities on ways of reuniting their divided island, hopes they will be able to begin direct talks next week, he told the Security Council Friday.

"The secretary-general reviewed the discussions that he has had with the two leaders during the past several weeks with a view to bringing about a new phase of direct talks under his auspices, between the two leaders, in the days ahead," a U.N. spokeswoman said after the closed-door council briefing.

A council source said this phase might begin on Wednesday.

Dr. Ghali has been conferring separately with Cypriot President George Vassiliou, representing the Greek Cypriots, and with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, on proposals for establishing a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal state.

Cyprus has been virtually partitioned since Turkish troops landed in the north of the island in 1974 after a brief coup in Nicosia backed by the junta then ruling Greece.

The latest round of talks under the secretary-general's auspices began here in June and resumed on July 15 after a three-week break.

Apart from a brief social encounter in June, a joint lunch with Dr. Ghali last month and a chance meeting last week in the U.N. lobby, the two leaders have not met face to face.

A council source said Dr. Ghali was relatively optimistic at his briefing, but remained cautious. He was hopeful about the issue of displaced persons — provision for people displaced from their homes by the 1974 fighting — but felt there was still some way to go on the question of territory — how much of the land now held by the Turkish Cypriots would have to be returned to Greek Cypriot control in a final settlement.

The Turkish Cypriots declared their own state in 1983, with Mr. Denktaş as president, in the 37 per cent of the island's territory they control. But it is recognised only by Turkey.

The Turkish Cypriots say they comprise close to 23 per cent of the population but the Greek Cypriots say the correct figure, excluding settlers from Turkey, is 18 per cent.

A map and proposals presented to both sides by Dr. Ghali would reduce the Turkish Cypriot share of territory to around 28 per cent. Mr. Denktaş has said he is willing to accept what in diplomatic parlance is referred to as "29 plus per cent," but opposes surrendering the town of Morphou, as called for under the U.N. proposals.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge delays Weinberger's trial

WASHINGTON (R) — A federal judge on Friday delayed until Jan. 5 the Iran-contra trial of former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who faces five criminal charges stemming from the Reagan-era scandal. The trial had been set for Nov. 2, one day before the national elections for president and other offices, but the judge postponed it due to problems over evidence demanded by the defence and what prosecutors would turn over now. Mr. Weinberger in June became the first member of Ronald Reagan's cabinet and the highest-ranking official to be charged over the scandal involving the secret sale of arms to Iran and efforts to support the Nicaraguan contra rebels in 1985-86, when Congress outlawed U.S. military aid.

Kuwait, Russia discuss oil, security pact

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and Russia are discussing oil cooperation and a possible security pact which would deny the kind of access to oil-rich Gulf Arab states long denied the former Soviet Union. KUNA news agency reported late on Friday that Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi proposed to visiting Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamoud Abdullah Al Rqoba setting up a joint project to manufacture oil production machinery. KUNA quoted Kuwait's ambassador to Moscow, Abdul Mohsin Al Duaij, as saying the two countries were in the final stages of discussing a security pact. Mr. Duaij gave no details. Moscow said on Friday it might send ships to the Gulf to join any action against Iraq after Baghdad again said it would deny U.N. weapons inspectors access to government buildings. Kuwait, which still feels vulnerable to Iraqi attack, has signed long-term defence pacts with Gulf war allies the United States and Britain and plans one with France.

Iran, Syria discuss situation in Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Vice-President Hassan Habibi and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati returned home on Friday from a three-day visit to Syria where they discussed bilateral ties and the situation in Iraq, the national news agency IRNA said. Mr. Habibi described the outcome of talks with the Syrian officials as "good and positive." Mr. Habibi "discussed Tehran-Damascus cooperation in the political, economic and commercial fields, and also exchanged views on important regional and international developments including the Iraqi situation..." IRNA said. Iraq accused Iran on Thursday of sending more than 4,000 Iranian fighters to infiltrate through marshes in southern Iraq to attack bases and assassinate officials.

South Korean sailors arrested in Morocco

CASABLANCA (R) — Nineteen South Korean sailors have been arrested in Morocco after staging a sit-in at the offices of their bankrupt employer to demand unpaid wages, a spokesman for the Korean Kotra Trading Company said on Friday. The 19, arrested on Wednesday at the offices of the Moroccan fishing company Somamer, had been charged with disturbing the peace, resisting arrest and insulting behaviour towards local officials, the official added. The 19, according to the official, were among about 100 South Korean sailors who were employed by the company in the southern port of Agadir and who accused it of owing five months' salary worth totalling more than \$1 million. The 19 had stayed in Morocco to fight for their money in the courts while the other sailors had returned home, he said. They told police evicting them that they had no money for food and nowhere else to go. No-one at the company was immediately available for comment.

Aluminium Bahrain to get \$70m from banks

MANAMA (R) — Five commercial banks in Bahrain will extend a \$70 million medium-term loan to Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) to finance a power project, the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) said. A bank statement said ABN-Amro bank, the Arab Investment Company, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, the British Bank of the Middle East and NBB would take part in the deal. The loan will be used to link Alba with the state-owned Riffa power station, and for the installation of sub-stations, transformers and switchgear. NBB said but gave no further details.

Kuwait workers strike for right to wear mufti

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait food and safety inspectors went on strike on Saturday to demand the right to wear mufti instead of blue uniforms, a trade union official said. The 700 inspectors say wearing blue trousers, shirts and caps instead of the traditional white gowns worn by most Kuwaiti men would make them stand out during clandestine operations to catch health and safety violations. "If this decision is carried out, it will reduce productivity because our job depends on camouflage," said Musallam Al Barrak, leader of the municipal workers' union. The Municipal Affairs Ministry has said the uniform dress code was "in the interest of work."

Bangladesh premier arrives in Bahrain

MANAMA (R) — Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia arrived in Bahrain on Saturday for a two-day official visit, the Gulf News Agency reported. It said Ms. Khaleda, leading a high-level delegation, would hold talks with Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa during her first reported visit to the island. In Dhaka an official said Ms. Khaleda, might ask Arab investors to set up joint industrial projects in Bangladesh and try to persuade officials to accept more Bangladeshi workers in Bahrain.

New oil discoveries in Yemen

SANAA (AP) — The Canadian Occidental Oil Co. has announced discovery of three new fields in its Masella concession in southern Yemen, a company official said Friday. The official said the new finds are "economically" but that they do not add "appreciably" to the company's reserve estimated of 235 million barrels. Canadian Occidental has now completed 25 exploration and appraisal wells, 18 of which are said to be successful. It is pursuing an accelerated development programme, said the official. Commercial production of 90,000 barrels per day is expected to begin in September 1993, but facilities are planned for eventual production of 120,000 barrels per day. The three new fields and their production rates are the north Camal-1 with 10,930 barrels per day, Tawila-1 with 9,050 barrels per day and Haru-1 with 1,050 barrels per day. The fields in the northwest corner of the concession area are now producing some 21,000 barrels per day of high quality crude oil, the official said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
12:00 Olympics live
17:30 Michael Valtieri
17:30 Des Chiffres et des Lettres
18:10 La Caisse Aux Chansons
19:00 News French
19:15 Magazine E.M.6
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Olympics
21:00 News in English
22:30 Midnight Caller

PRAYER TIMES

04:25 Fajr
05:57 (Sunrise) Duha
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 'Asr
18:32 Maghrib
20:58 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel: 510740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 537440

De la Salle Church Tel: 661757
Terrence Church Tel: 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541
Anglican Church Tel: 630851, Tel: 625243
Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771231
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 772661
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel: 771251
Assiout International Church Tel: 685236
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811205
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 623824, 65-0932
Church of the Nazarene Tel: 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:

Another rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be light and variable. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max, temp.
Amman 21 / 34
Aqaba 26 / 41
Dumana 29 / 37
Jordan Valley 24 / 40

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 33, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Salah Al Umoud 640028
Dr. Arif Al Alkhalil 602507
Dr. Hama Mansour 748364
Dr. Riq Abu Zein 894285
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637035
Nurouh pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shineen pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Radwan Al Saad 77307
Al Shazra pharmacy 275825

ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lwadi 98601
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 657111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 657777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 864002
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 658800
Price Complaints 661776
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Omanesa Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs:
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 864002
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Intl. Airport: 08-53200
Oman Air Intl. Airport: 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akil Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642562
Malina, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 84595
Al-Musab Hospital 657278
Al-Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Sharif, J. Ashrafieh 775112/8
Army, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 022449
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Im Sina Hospital (09)987332
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)2

Illiteracy meeting opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-day meeting on eradicating illiteracy in the occupied Arab territories is under way in Amman Saturday with delegates representing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Ministry of Education and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Director of the PLO's higher education department in Amman said that democracy can be achieved through political, social and cultural means and it is vital for people to be educated so that they can take part in the economic and political life of their country.

Addressing the opening session, Yasser Amr said that progress, justice and equality cannot be achieved if there are illiterate people in society.

The Palestine question is going through a very critical stage and everyone is urged to be ready to confront all eventualities, he added. People in the occupied Arab lands ought to be armed with science and education so that they can build a modern Palestinian state and it is up to the educational institutions to find means of meeting the Palestinian's educational needs.

The five day meeting will address the illiteracy in the occupied territories, its dangers and consequences, and way of dealing with the situation by propagating Arabic language, culture education and Islamic faith plus social studies.

The participants will also discuss the current programmes for providing education to adults and the illiterate in the remote regions.

In June this year, an Arab League-sponsored meeting on educational programmes for students in the occupied Arab territories decided to increase the time of radio and television programmes, focusing more and more attention on scientific matters and cultural education to offset Israel's attempts to distort Arab culture.

The participants, from Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Egypt said they would open the door for more cooperation with Al Quds open university now temporarily headquartered in Amman, to achieve the aspired goal. Jordan Radio and Television has been beaming educational programmes to the residents of the occupied Arab lands.

The five countries have scheduled another meeting later this year, in Cairo.

Lands and survey revenues increase 33 per cent

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lands and Survey Department's revenues last July have totalled JD5,646,471, reflecting a 33 per cent increase of its revenues in July 1991, Department Director General Ali Gharaibeh announced Saturday.

Mr. Gharaibeh said that this month's revenues also witnessed an increase of 27 per cent when compared to June 1992. The department's revenues in June have reached JD4,445,355, he said.

Jordanian labour union depart

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Federation of the Jordanian Labour Unions left Amman Saturday for Cairo on a week-long visit to Egypt at the invitation from the Egyptian Federation of Egyptian Labour Unions. The delegation will discuss with officials at the Egyptian Federation ways of boosting and bolstering bilateral cooperation.

Seminar on modern agriculture

RAEBA, Karak (Petra) — A training course on modern agricultural technology transfer techniques opened Saturday at Al Rabba Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer.

The course, in which 20 agricultural engineers from the agriculture departments in Karak and Tafleh are participating, aims to enhance engineer proficiency in the field of modern agricultural technology transfer and to improve their skills in the fields of planning and spreading agriculture consultancy programmes. It also aims to improve their ability to conduct feasibility studies on planting animal feed and cattle breeding.

Participants in the course will be familiarised with the aims and activities of Al Mashreq project, which is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture through the National Centre for Agricultural Researches and Technology Transfer in cooperation with the United Nations Development Fund (UNDF) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.



Tunisian envoy meets with Jordan's Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra

Tunisia discusses stronger cultural, information exchanges

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Tunisia Saturday opened talks in Amman to promote cultural and tourism ties and the exchange of cultural materials.

Tunisian Minister of Culture Al Munji Abu Samir, who started a visit to Jordan Saturday, first met with Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra to pave the way for cultural exchanges between Amman and Tunis.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the two ministers explored ways of developing bilateral cooperation in cultural affairs and to work out an executive programme to implement an earlier cultural agreement. It said that the meeting dwelt on new proposals for future cooperation in this respect.

According to the agency, the two sides explored the possible exchange of Jordanian and Tunisian publications, books and other printed matter, as well as visits by cultural delegations to take part in seminars and conferences or lectures.

Also discussed at the meeting was the prospect of Jordanian participation in the Carthage Cultural Festival and for Tunisia to participate in the annual Jerash Festival. Jordanian cultural week in Tunisia and a similar week in Jordan was also discussed.

The idea of exchanging expertise in theatre, children's literature and library affairs, in addition to cooperation in Arabic music, collecting Bedouin cultural heritages and joint cultural studies were also discussed.

Accompanied by a delegation, the Tunisian minister met with Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat and discussed cooperation in tourism, exchange of expertise in tourist related affairs and ways to implement an earlier tourist agreement.

The Tunisian Minister of Culture also reviewed cooperation in the exchange of information with Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif. Petra said that the two ministers exchanged views on how to exchange information news material, television programmes, newspapers and magazines.

The participants, from Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Egypt said they would open the door for more cooperation with Al Quds open university now temporarily headquartered in Amman, to achieve the aspired goal. Jordan Radio and Television has been beaming educational programmes to the residents of the occupied Arab lands.

The five countries have scheduled another meeting later this year, in Cairo.

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First pharmaceutical shipment hits American shores with a splash — more in the offing

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first shipment sent by Jordan to American markets has reached the United States, and plans are in the offing for more, according to Samih Darwazah, President of the Jordan Trade Association (JTA).

Mr. Darwazah told the Jordan Times that 5,000 cartons of Acetaminophen manufactured by Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals are now on shelves in the United States. The product was imported by the American firm Westward and plans are under way for more shipments since America is a good potential for Jordanian pharmaceutical products.

Al Hikma also plans to ship its products to Portugal, Czechoslovakia and Russia, he added.

Asked about prospects for the future, Mr. Darwazah said the future looks good because those markets and others are open for high quality and competitive products, which Jordan offers.

Indeed, Mr. Darwazah noted, Jordanian goods in general and pharmaceutical products in particular had good markets abroad in the past few years. He said that these products have now found their ways to Europe and demand for them has been increasing lately. A number of deals have been concluded between Jordanian manufacturers and Eastern European countries.

Referring to the Sept. 15, industrial fair to be held in Moscow by Jordanian industries, Mr. Darwazah said that the JTA encourages all Jordanian manufacturers and industrial businesses to participate in the coming event because of the great opportunity the Kingdom has to market its products in Russia.

The Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO), which is involved in Moscow exhibit, announced last month that it was preparing to involve Jordan in international fair to help promote the marketing of national industrial products.

Trade between Lebanon and Jordan reached \$45 million in 1991, with Lebanon having a \$15 million edge.

"Countries usually look at the trade balance as a whole and not sector by sector," said Marwan Awad, undersecretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry who headed the Jordanian delegation to Lebanon last month to solve the dispute over agricultural exports.

Mr. Awad said talks between his delegation and its Lebanese counterpart led to an agreement that the two countries drop tariffs and take into account their agricultural calendars.

Lebanon, which charges no tariffs on its imports of Jordanian agricultural products had demanded that Jordan apply the principle of reciprocity and exempt Lebanese agricultural exports from tariffs and other customary fees. "We have removed all obstacles," said Mr. Awad.

Watermelon exporters, who have been most hurt by the closure of the Lebanese markets, will be the first to benefit from the new agreement as the fruit tops the list of agricultural exports to Lebanon. Fifty truckloads of watermelon were left to rot at the Lebanese border in July when the Lebanese authorities denied them entry.

The Lebanese market is a vital market for Jordanian agricultural sector which is still recovering from the loss of traditional outlets in the Gulf after the Gulf war. "The Lebanese market is very important for us," said Mr. Lawzi. "It is hard to find new markets," he said, pointing out that Jordan's major markets before the Gulf war, Iraq and Kuwait, are still inaccessible.

Saudi Arabia is currently the largest importer of Jordanian agricultural products which are also heavily sold in Dubai, Qatar and Bahrain.

Jordan decided to import Lebanese apricots just to satisfy Lebanon's export demands but later reversed its decision because of the market's limited capacity and of local opposition to foreign imports of fruits, said Dr. Lawzi. He added opponents of Lebanese fruit imports overlooked the potential loss to Jordan by the closure of the Lebanese market.

Economic experts said that Lebanon had a weak argument by breaking the trade balance between the two countries into its various components saying that trade interaction between countries is viewed in its entirety.

Jordan to hold its first industrial fair in Moscow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is to organise a national industrial fair in Moscow Sept. 5, the first of its kind in the Russian capital. The fair will introduce Russians to Jordanian products and help open new markets for the national industry, according to a recent announcement.

The announcement said that Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour has agreed on the seven-day fair, noting that Russia is a potential market for Jordan.

The Jordanian Business Association made the announcement, saying that Jordan's products are of high quality able to compete with products worldwide.

The announcement said that the fair will be held at the permanent Jordanian Trade Centre in Moscow and the door is wide open for any industrial firm to send samples of products for the fair.

It said that among the most prominent industries expressing desire to participate in the fair were those producing paints, keys, electrical appliances, tissue paper, aluminium ladders, gas cookers, heaters, wall to wall

carpet, medical syringes, medical gloves, stoves, washing machines, cabinet drawers, detergents and shampoo — everything short of the kitchen sink.

The association has opened an office in Moscow as a liaison between Jordanian and Russian merchants. Over the past four years Jordan has been buying iron ore, paper machinery, timber and chemicals from Moscow and selling phosphate and other goods such as citrus fruits and agricultural and industrial products.

In accordance with a February 1990 trade protocol Moscow and Amman agreed to exchange goods worth \$42 million.

Jordan Electricity Authority Hussein Thermal Power Station

REISSUING OF TENDER NO. 82/91 (REVERSE OSMOSIS UNIT)

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the reissuing of tender No. 82/91 — Reverse Osmosis unit for Hussein Thermal Power Station — and the tender documents are available for purchase as of August 8, 1991. The tender consists of the design, supply, delivery, erection, testing and commissioning of one (1) Reverse Osmosis unit of 33 m³/h capacity with related auxiliaries in addition to one (1) Product water storage tank of 500 m³ capacity and one (1) Acid storage tank of 25 m³ capacity. Sealed tenders shall be submitted to the secretary of tendering committee before 10.00 a.m. Amman time, September, 7th, 1992 at JEA Offices.

The tenderer shall submit with his tender a tender bond amounting to JD 25,000 in accordance with the tender documents. Tender documents are available from the address given below for non-refundable fee of JD 50 payable to JEA for each copy of tender documents.

Jordan Electricity Authority
Post Office Box 2310
Amman-Jordan
Tele: 21258/23270



King Hussein reads a message from UNESCO

UNESCO praises King's donation for restorations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a personal message from the director general of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) voicing the organisation's appreciation of the King's donation for restoring the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The message was delivered to the King at the Royal Court by Professor Raymond Lemaire a personal representative of UNESCO Director Federico Mayor.

Mr. Mayor praised the King's efforts to safeguard the holy Islamic and Arab cultural sites in the holy land.

King Hussein recently declared his donation of \$8.24 million towards the restoration of the holy shrines and announced that it is Jordan's duty to carry out the restoration through our ad hoc committee that had shouldered this mission over the past five decades.

In May this year, Jordan told UNESCO that plans for projects related to or affecting any of the holy places in the occupied Arab lands should be conducted through the Jordanian government and its responsible agencies, the sole responsible authorities entrusted with such activities.

Jordan's views contained in a message sent to UNESCO were in reaction to Saudi Arabia's bid to finance the restoration work by-passing the responsible Jordanian committee.

UNESCO replied then that it would refrain from taking any action with regard to the holy places in Jerusalem without prior consultation or coordination with the Jordanian government and obtaining its approval.

Restoration is meanwhile reported underway at the holy places and the work is being carried out by a British firm Mivan at the cost of JD 4.84 million. The firm will cover the Dome with gold gilded copper sheets to prevent leakage, restore roofs and install an early warning system against fires.

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Gazans with travel documents denied entry to Egypt — many left in limbo

Hana Salah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The dilemma of a 74-year-old diabetic stuck on a boat drifting between Jeddah and the Suez for the past 10 months continues as Egyptian and Saudi authorities refuse him entry, according to information made available to the Jordan Times.

According to sources in international agencies, who asked not to be identified, Haj Mustapha was forced to leave Saudi Arabia by boat when his residency permit expired 10 months ago. He was denied entry into Egypt because of insufficient documentation, even though his wife and children live in Egypt.

Since then, he has been drifting between the two countries every 72 hours. The United Nations has allowed his wife to visit him twice on the boat.

Also, he was not allowed to enter Jordan because of Jordan's recent law not allowing any Gazans to enter Egypt without a visa.

Like most Gazans, Haj Mustapha is a Gaza resident carrying an Egyptian issued travel document from the days when Egypt controlled the strip before the 1967 war.

According to Egyptian regulations, the Egyptian document

does not give the holder the right of residence. In addition, the holder of this document must possess an Egyptian visa to enter or cross in to the country.

This policy came in to effect when Anwar Sadat became president in 1969. Prior to his presidency, during Jamal Abdel Nasser's reign, Gazans and Egyptians were treated equally.

A Gazan who resides in Jordan said that even if a Gazan has lived in Egypt for 20 years and is married to an Egyptian woman, he still does not have the right to obtain an Egyptian passport. He will also always fear that his visa will not be renewed or that when he travels to another country he may not receive a return visa to Egypt.

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JCO honours cooperatives

AMMAN (Petra) — A celebration will be held today at the Palace of Culture of the Al Hussein Youth City to honour members of cooperative societies and organisations for their outstanding achievements during the past year, according to an announcement by the Jordan Cooperatives Organisation (JCO).

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Jamal Bedour of the organisation said that a number of these societies working closely with JCO have had excellent results that should be recognised.

In reviewing JCO's accomplishments Dr. Bedour said that the organisation has been active in providing farm machinery, seeds and fertilisers to Jordanian farmers and helping create sheep fattening stations to boost livestock in the country.

The JCO provided JD 3 million to farmers in equipment and has focused attention on starting farming cooperatives in remote and rural regions where it helped to set up 68 such cooperatives in the past year.

Referring to marketing products last year, Dr. Bedour said that agreement was reached with the Iraqi Cooperative Federation for marketing 74 million Jordanian table eggs in Iraq. The JCO also opened a shopping centre in Jabal Amman to market cooperative societies products for reasonable prices and reached a deal with the Ministry of Agriculture on providing services to farmers in need of machinery, said Dr. Bedour.

Referring to fresh milk production, he said that the JCO has been encouraging cooperative societies to set up small dairy plants, one of which was already set up in the Irbid area. It also set up a JCO dairy plant in Duleil which can absorb 10 tonnes of fresh milk daily and a third one is being established in Jerash.

Furthermore, Dr. Bedour noted, an agreement was reached through the Sudanese agricultural bank

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Improper pricing distorted fuel consumption

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Fuel in Jordan is no more subsidised. It is being sold to the consumers as a whole at the economic cost plus, yet the prices of the individual fuel items are so distorted that rationalisation of consumption is all but impossible.

The latest statistics of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. (JPRC) revealed that the volume of fuel items sold in the domestic market during the first half of 1992 rose by a staggering 24 per cent over the volume of sales during the corresponding period of last year.

Taking into consideration that the gross domestic product (GDP) in constant prices achieved only a slight growth, we can safely conclude that the efficiency of the economy in utilising fuel and energy deteriorated at an alarming proportion. This negative phenomenon is of course worth looking at for identifying the reasons and do something about them. Under no circumstances should we continue to stray in the wrong direction. The whole world is striving to economise energy consumption and reduce the quantity of oil needed to produce a given amount of commodities and services. The advanced countries with prudent energy policies succeeded in doing just that, and they continue to make further improvements.

Perhaps we in Jordan did not pay enough attention towards the rationalisation of fuel consumption, simply because we receive our needs of crude oil from Iraq at concessional prices, with no

hard currency being paid. But we should not organise our economic life on the basis of an exceptionally convenient arrangement that may not last forever.

Under normal circumstances, Jordan's imported oil bill would be in the order of \$500 million, calculated at current international OPEC prices. This amounts to 12 per cent of our gross domestic product, 17 per cent of our imports, or 40 per cent of the national exports.

If the Jordanian economy needs structural adjustment and major correction, which it does, the energy sector stands out at the fore front in this respect, in view of its utmost importance and the obvious need to change course and adopt new policies to alter the current state of affairs. Of course the pricing policy comes first to the mind, and rightly so, but the far-reaching adjustment should not be confined to coming up with a more reasonable scale of prices, it should go deeper to the institutional reform in all areas of refinery, energy generating distribution and consumption.

Comparing the volume of sales of the individual fuel items of the first half of this year and the first half of last year, we cannot miss the striking observation that the quantity of consumed kerosene rose by 88 per cent, an astounding percentage which the snowstorms alone may not explain in part; the major part of the jump is caused by the fact that kerosene is being used to cheat

diesel buyers.

It is surprising of course to find that the higher and better quality petroleum item of kerosene is used to be mixed and sold with the lower grade diesel of fuel oil. It looks as if the seller is cheating himself, because you don't cheat customers by selling them gold as silver. The fact is that the seller is actually cheating the treasury in particular and the society in general. He is simply buying the subsidised kerosene at a price cheaper than the non-subsidised diesel or fuel oil. This strange outcome is the natural result of the distortion caused by an artificially low price of kerosene. The scale of prices is effectively an incentive for cheating. Jordan is now using more kerosene than the refinery is designed to cope with. Jordan, as a whole, is wasting resources and causing substitution of one item for another in the wrong direction.

The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources is called upon to look into the huge distortions prevailing in the energy sector under its jurisdiction, which is becoming an organised distortion at work. The energy sector needs an in-depth review of policies which proved beyond doubt that they are wrong and should not stay any longer.

The World Bank is known to have surveyed the energy sector and pointed out its faults. It remains to be seen if the minister in charge has the will to act.

Break for Lebanon

THERE IS no denial that the 1989 Taif agreement between the warring Lebanese factions was a milestone in that country's quest to restore peace and stability. Yet the Taif accord, which sought at first to end the bloodshed, is in itself not the perfect solution to Lebanon's decades-old problems. What the agreement did was to give Syria a major role in ending the conflict. No one can contest, of course, the fact that Lebanon is of strategic importance to Syria. The Lebanese must be grateful for the Syrian role in ending the fighting, but ultimately no one can bring reason, understanding and accommodation to Lebanon except the Lebanese themselves. That the various factions should do first by recognising each other's concerns, fears and suspicions and, second, by working out a new formula for national co-existence and prosperity.

And any new formula that the Lebanese would arrive at should carry in it the seeds and the mechanism for continued reforms of their political system. It is unfortunate that the Lebanese are still clinging to the original formula of sharing power on the basis of religion. There is no reason why different religious sects should not function as political parties, per se. But to distribute political office on the basis of religion is not healthy at all. It did not prove to be so in the past, nor is it expected to do so in the future. Democracy and pluralism, based on religion or otherwise, are the only viable alternatives to the future of nation-states in the region. If democracy and pluralism are adhered to there will be no danger of any one sect or party seeking help from abroad. There is and there has been a great deal of meddling in Lebanon's affairs from immediate and not so-immediate neighbours. That will continue as long as one Lebanese faction finds it necessary to protect itself with help of foreign forces. Former President Amin Gemayel and other Lebanese leaders could be right that Lebanon is not yet ready for elections under the current circumstances. But what are the other options? If elections are the price the Lebanese have to pay for a Syrian pullout and for continued stability, then why not? The Lebanese people are fed up with their leaders' continued struggle which cost their country hundreds of thousands of dead and injured people and turned the country into ruins. If elections are only a limp in the right direction then so be it. A country that has for years been crippled by civil war cannot certainly start running. It has to crawl back to its feet. Perhaps what the country needs is not traditional leaders and warlords, but ordinary and genuine people who are sick of war and killing.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS the right of President Bush to try again and win another term in office, but it is not right for him to create world tension and to launch war in order to achieve that goal, said Al Rai'i Arabic daily Saturday. Commenting on the ongoing military exercises in the Gulf, the paper said these moves can only create tension and pave the ground for violence in the whole region. The paper said that the military exercises come close on the heels of continued and persistent attempts on the part of U.N. inspectors to search government buildings in Baghdad, and both the military exercises and the search campaigns tend to serve as provocative acts against Iraq. Furthermore, the American president has been using threatening statements against Iraq, in a manner that clearly shows that the U.N. inspectors are taking direct instructions from Washington, said the paper. The daily said that aggression and tension can by no means serve as part of a presidential campaign and the president should look for other means to achieve his goal. It said that the time has come for Washington to abandon its provocations against Baghdad under the pretext of searching for mass destruction weapons and it is time for Washington to adopt other stands that can give a good impression about his personality in the course of seeking another term in the White House.

AL DUSTOUR commented on Yitzhak Rabin's visit to the United States noting that Israeli premier has gone to the U.S. in order to secure the U.S. loan guarantees and not to secure a peaceful settlement based on justice. The paper said that Mr. Rabin had succeeded in deceiving the U.S. administration and has been using his declaration of partially freezing the settlement programme as a lever to ensure Israel's interests. Should Mr. Bush offer Israel the loan guarantees it requires, he would be dealing the most devastating blow to the current peace process and deprive the Middle East of the chance of peace, the paper said. It warned the Bush administration against falling into the trap set by Rabin and the Zionist lobby. It said that Mr. Rabin has not renounced the settlements which Washington has been considering as an obstacle to peace. It said Mr. Rabin, like his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir, is playing for time and is trying to get the loan guarantees without offering land in exchange for peace.

Following is the last of the two-part article on Israel U.S. lobby's drive to suppress debate of U.S. policy in the Middle East. The writer, a free-lancer in Washington DC, was an opposition researcher for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in 1990, 1991. The article is reprinted from the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

In both of the cases cited, AIPAC attempted to discredit critics of Israel not by refuting their arguments, but by trying to tie them to Arab money. Making an Arab connection can damage the victim's reputation, the pro-Israel lobby believes, so long as it can encourage a mindset in the United States that anything Arab-related is tainted.

Ironically, it is precisely the same kind of racist stereotype to which the Jewish community is so sensitive, particularly the charge that Jews exert tremendous influence through the use of their money. Jewish organisations can and do talk about the power of "Arab money" and "petrodollars," yet are quick to decry as anti-Semitic similar innuendo regarding Jewish financing.

In another case, AIPAC Executive Director Dine asked Mr. Lewis to analyse the positions of Brookings Institution Middle East specialist Judith Kipper. In an Aug. 17, 1990 memo, Mr. Lewis responded: "For the most part, Kipper is extremely skillful in her writings and statements to avoid being pinned down as 'anti-Israel.' She often achieves her goals by presenting the views of 'moderate Israelis' to state her case."

In "The New Republic," an ardently pro-Israeli magazine, writer David Segal put a more positive spin on Ms. Kipper's views in his March 25, 1991 issue: "Her analysis throughout the Gulf crisis said little about the politics of the Middle East, but a great deal about the politics of Judith Kipper. It's not that she's anti-Israel — her criticism would put her far from the centre of the Israeli Labour Party — or that she is pro-Arab. Rather, her policies stem from an unwavering quasi-religious faith in the power of dialogue."

There is no greater admission of guilt and wrongdoing than AIPAC's strenuous attempts to conceal its blacklisting activities. Senior AIPAC officials fear that public outrage might follow disclosure of their covert activities. The name change from "Opposition Research" to "Policy Analysis" was designed to conceal AIPAC's surveillance, monitoring, and intelligence-gathering operations. In an Aug. 7, 1990 internal memorandum to Steve Rosen, AIPAC Foreign Policy

Issues director, Mr. Lewis boasted: "There is no question that we exert a policy impact, but working behind the scenes and taking care not to leave fingerprints, that impact is not always traceable to us."

As part of its intelligence-gathering operation, Policy Analysis has created a fictional person and a bogus company to infiltrate opposing organisations by paying membership dues or making donations to them. This AIPAC creation is "Paul Hunt & Associates." AIPAC rents a post office box on Capitol Hill for Mr. Hunt's mail, and has installed a separate Paul Hunt telephone line in the AIPAC office. "Paul Hunt" has even been listed as a donor to the "Washington Report on Middle East Affairs."

Secret Activities

Nowhere is secrecy more meticulously applied than to the production and distribution of *Activities*, the weekly AIPAC publication which disseminates information on individuals and organisations critical of Israel or Israeli policies. Although *Activities* is the most visible product of its Policy Analysis section, AIPAC takes great pains to hide its connection with *Activities*, in order to avoid the controversy that arose over its blacklisting of "enemies" in its 1983 publication of *The Campaign to Discredit Israel*.

Activities select and tightly controlled recipients are encouraged to use the material as they see fit, "subject only to the proviso that AIPAC not be attributed as its source." *Activities* is distributed to AIPAC's Washington and regional staff, its officers, the major Jewish organisational leaders, Jewish federations and community relations councils around the nation, pro-Israel activists and academics.

It also goes to the Israeli embassy in Washington and to other Israel both in the U.S. and in Israel. AIPAC employees are not permitted to take *Activities* out of the office and may not mention the existence of *Activities* outside AIPAC's walls. A disquieting breach of security was revealed at the 1990 national convention of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) when that organisation's president, Abdeen Jabara, referred casually to having received an AIPAC study entitled *Activities*.

Assessing the problem, Mr. Lewis wrote in an April 2, 1990 memorandum to Mr. Dine: *Activities* is distributed to some 400+ people, so it will probably be impossible to trace the source of the leak. There is nothing in *Activities* which points to who is

its originator and it is sent out in plain envelopes, so the material obviously did not just accidentally get passed on to ADC. This is the first time that any of these groups have made any reference to their being in receipt of *Activities*."

Information contained in *Activities* has been used by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), American Jewish Congress (AJC), Zionist Organisation of America (ZOA), Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA), National Jewish Coalition (NJC), and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA).

According to Mr. Lewis: "Because *Activities* is read by many of the major Jewish and pro-Israel organisational players, *Activities* ensures that there is a cognisance of the activities of the anti-Israel forces both in Washington and the grassroots and the issues on which they are focusing... Ultimately, of all the information disseminated from AIPAC, *Activities* may well be the most eagerly sought, read and used to good advantage."

One of the ways that this information was "used to good advantage" was in a 1990 American Jewish Congress fund-raising letter. It accused Executive Director James Zogby of the Arab American Institute of "the new anti-Semitism" (criticism of Israeli policies) and compared him with white supremacist David Duke and black nationalist Rev. Louis Farrakhan because Mr. Zogby criticised pro-Israel political action committees. No sources were given in the letter for quotations attributed to Mr. Zogby.

When Mr. Zogby protested, AJC Executive Director Henry Siegman, whose name appeared at the bottom of the letter, denied prior knowledge of the mailing and blamed overzealous fund-raisers for its wording. *Washington Post* columnist Richard Cohen wrote in an Oct. 3, 1990, column, "There's no doubt in my mind that the American Jewish Congress' letter writers went off half-cocked — and without Mr. Siegman's knowledge." It might surprise Mr. Cohen to know that Mr. Siegman, not AJC's fund-raisers, is one of the select recipients of AIPAC's *Activities*, from which every one of the quotes attributed to Mr. Zogby had been taken.

Nor, after publication of Mr. Cohen's article, was it some unnamed "letter writer" but Mr. Siegman, personally, who contacted AIPAC's Michael Lewis for help in trying to build a case that Mr. Zogby was indeed an "anti-Semite." Mr. Lewis faxed an AIPAC "living memo" of Mr.

Zogby's statements, actions and affiliations to Mr. Siegman in New York.

"I hope this information is of help," Mr. Lewis wrote on the cover sheet. "The compilation as such should not be sent to Richard Cohen, and the information should not be attributed to AIPAC."

Writing in the *Village Voice* on Jan. 22, 1991, Nat Hentoff argued that the AJC letter had "resurrected the spirit of Joe McCarthy." Mr. Hentoff also quoted Mr. Zogby's reaction to his own personal ordeal with neo-McCarthyism: "When the ADL and AIPAC falsely and maliciously labeled me a 'terrorist member of the PLO'... speaking engagements were cancelled, political candidates refused to associate with me, and my family and I were harassed and threatened with violence... Now, I know that ADL and AIPAC were involved in the harassment, or the violence — but vilification and scurrilous attacks of the sort that they indulged in can create the atmosphere in which ugly actions occur."

Mr. Siegman never apologized to Mr. Zogby for the actions of his "overzealous fund-raisers."

Disingenuous disclaiming

AIPAC is careful never to advocate specific actions to be taken against individuals and organisations named in *Activities*. In fact, it puts on the front cover of every edition the disingenuous disclaimer that "the inclusion of material in *Activities* implies neither endorsement nor criticism of any group." By distributing derogatory allegations about critics of Israel, however, AIPAC in effect tells pro-Israel activists, "Here are the people who are your enemies — now go out and do something about it!"

AIPAC's Policy Analysis section works closely with its college liaison department, the Political Leadership Development Programme (PLDP). When AIPAC is informed of an upcoming speech by an "anti-Israel personality," summaries of that person's standard arguments, question-and-answer style, and a list of possibly damaging quotations are sent to pro-Israel activists at the host institution, who also are asked to send tapes or accounts of the speech back to AIPAC. AIPAC also draws up question for "plants" in the audience, and suggests other strategies suited to the particular venue.

Typical of this kind of preparation was a confidential memo sent in 1985 to AIPAC opposition researcher Anna Gottlieb by AIPAC regional director Murray Wood in Los Angeles. For an October 20th "Conference on

Peace With Justice in the Middle East" at Mira Costa College, arrangements were made to "monitor the conference... have a corps of 'our' people in the audience, well-trained and briefed... call a meeting with the local ADL and American Jewish Committee directors to develop a coordinated strategy... (and provide) background material" on the speakers.

Human rights activists Noam Chomsky, a linguistics professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, described the ADL file compiled on him: "It's just like an FBI file — 150 pages of material, clips from newspapers' inter-office memos saying I was going to show up at this or that place, surveillance of talks I have given, characterisation of what was said in the talks (often falsified)... All this material goes into a central source. Then when I give a talk somewhere, my file will be given to the appropriate local group, who will be able to dig through it, and come up with statements that I allegedly made at some time during the last 15 years to publicised in unsigned pamphlets."

Under lock and key in the office of Michael Lewis are literally hundreds and hundreds of such files on people and organisations that AIPAC deems to be "anti-Israeli." Among politicians upon whom such files exist are former Bush administration White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, former Reagan administration secretaries of defence Caspar Weinberger and Frank Carlucci, former President Jimmy Carter and former Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern, Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole, Republican Senator John Chafee, House Majority Whip David Bonior, and Democratic Representatives John Conyers, John Dingell, Mervyn Dymally, Mary Rose Oakar, Nickles Joe Rahall, James Traficant and many others.

The largest file that AIPAC keeps on any single person is that of District of Columbia "Shadow Senator" Jesse Jackson. While AIPAC's surveillance and monitoring is mostly confined to an individual's professional statements and activities, in Mr. Jackson's case, AIPAC was caught venturing into personal innuendo. As revealed by CBS's "60 Minutes," an internal AIPAC memorandum dated Nov. 3, 1987 proposed generating media interest in allegation that Mr. Jackson had extramarital affairs.

AIPAC also maintains files on what it characterises as "anti-Israel" journalists to stifle open media discussion of the Middle East. AIPAC maintains files on Peter Jennings, Mike Wallace, Patrik Buchanan, Rowland

Evans and Robert Novak, Thomas Friedman, Anthony Lewis, Richard Cohen, Carl Rowan, Alexander Cockburn and Joseph Sobran, among others.

Reminiscent of Senator Joe McCarthy's scouring of Hollywood for "communists," and their "fellow travelers" in the entertainment industry, AIPAC also has opened files on Ed Asner, Woody Allen, Richard Dreyfus, Vanessa Redgrave, Casey Kasem, Mike Farrell, Barbara Streisand, Michael Moore, Peter Yarrow, and many more.

"Have you no shame?"

In the spring of 1954, a nationwide audience watching the televised Army-McCarthy hearing sat transfixed as Boston attorney Joseph Welch stood to demand of Senator McCarthy, "Sir, have you no shame?" Only after that dramatic confrontation, pictured over and over as intimidated journalists and politicians finally dared to speak out, did the shadow of "McCarthyism" slowly recede from American public life. Today, some Jewish organisations finally are asking that same question of the Israel lobby. Two years ago, several local Jewish community relations organisations issued a statement condemning an attack by the hardline Americans For A Safe Israel (AFSI) against the New Israel Fund (NIF).

This local initiative inspired a resolution adopted nationally by the National Jewish Community Relations advisory Council (NJCRAC) condemning the "McCarthy — like" tactics used by some Jewish organisations. The resolution proposed guidelines for dealing with "the right of dissent" on Israeli policies, and emphasised the importance of open and thoughtful exchange in an atmosphere of "mutual tolerance and civility." However, while NJCRAC denounced such fringe groups as AFSI, it failed to address the problem of neo-McCarthyism within more mainstream Jewish organisations.

AIPAC and ADL must be held accountable by the organised American Jewish community for their blacklisting and smear tactics and for the climate of hatred and representation they have created. Let American Jewish organisations demand that AIPAC stop circulation of its blacklists and destroy the files it keeps on the "enemies of Israel."

Only if Americans refuse to be silenced by false charges of hatred and racism can there be free and open debate on U.S. policy in the Middle East. And only through such debate will the U.S. be able to contribute towards a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Yugoslavia — military black hole or ripe for strike?

By Nicholas Doughty

Reuter

BRUSSELS — Is Yugoslavia a military black hole, waiting to swallow up divisions if the West is rash enough to intervene? Or could limited military action silence the big guns and bring relief to trapped civilians?

Most military analysts believe it could be Europe's Vietnam, a quagmire without an end in sight. But NATO military officials, although they have little enthusiasm for getting involved, say some operations could be feasible if their objectives were properly defined.

In any case, diplomats say, military considerations may not be the dominant factor for much longer.

There is a massive groundswell of revulsion in the West over the savage fighting in Bosnia, particularly the shooting of two infants by snipers and reports of concentration camps run by Serbs.

The head of the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU), Willem van Eekelen, told Dutch Radio on Thursday that only military means could now end the slaughter. "This cannot go on," he said.

But the outgoing commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia, Lieutenant-General Lewis MacKenzie, had words of warning for those contemplating military action.

"I have never seen such an intense hatred between peoples," he told Britain's Daily Mail news-

paper. "If there is no diplomatic solution and the world thinks seriously of putting in an occupation force, then they should be prepared for a very long stay. I'd say for the next 20 years — and even then, who knows what would happen when they left?"

Nevertheless, NATO officials are discussing a range of possible military options which could be carried through if the United Nations approves the use of limited force.

Alliance sources say these range from air strikes on Serbian artillery and mortar positions around the beleaguered city of Sarajevo to setting up safe havens for civilians or creating a land

corridor for aid delivery from the Adriatic coast.

Preliminary NATO estimates suggest at least 12,000 troops, backed up with heavy equipment, would be needed to take control of Sarajevo airport. Up to 100,000 men, with permanent air cover, would be needed to open a land corridor to the city.

But the cost could be high. The mountainous, wooded terrain cost Hitler several divisions in World War II due to losses from guerrilla attacks. Small mortars and snipers are hard to hit, with the risk of high civilian casualties. If a political decision is taken to commit forces, military officials said all the objectives must be clear.

For example, if you are going

to take Sarajevo airport by force so that aid can be flown in, how long do you hold it for? How do you reinforce forces there if needed and how do you get them out again? And does that mean you have to go into other areas of Bosnia, too?

Any mission would need a legal mandate, presumably from the United Nations. It would also need a single, unified command to work properly. Who would run it?

The United States had overall command in the Gulf war and is unlikely to commit forces to Yugoslavia unless it holds the same dominant position.

NATO has a military structure but cannot go beyond the defence

of its member states. The WEU has no command structure.

"The whole question of command, where the troops come from and who pays is very unclear," said Paul Beaver, publisher of the authoritative *London Defence Weekly*. "That would have to be sorted out first, otherwise you risk making big mistakes."

A key consideration for the politicians is to ensure that international and popular opinion is behind any military action being taken.

"Once we go in, we're the enemy," said one NATO diplomat. "We have to be ready to deal with bodybags coming back to London or Paris."

JOHN A. D.

Shbeilat

(Continued from page 1)

confidence." In a separate press statement issued Saturday, Mr. Shbeilat said the fact that 48 deputies voted to indict Mr. Rifai — which was six votes short of the required two-thirds majority to indict a suspected former government official — was in itself a condemnation and criticism Mr. Rifai for "receiving congratulations — claiming... that it was a victory of right over the wrong."

The statement was issued in response to one that Mr. Rifai released one day after the House vote.

Mr. Shbeilat described the vote as unprecedented in Jordan. "I never felt such success before," Mr. Shbeilat said. "For 48 people to bring a former prime minister from the regime's column and accuse him is a success in itself."

"With the open debate in the House under the scrutiny of the people, we achieved a lot more than we expected," Mr. Shbeilat added.

Mr. Shbeilat did not spell out the other corruption cases being pursued by the House's Investigations Committee, but insisted cases would be brought to the House for a similar vote as the Al Jafri-Azraq road case.

In May 1990, the House voted to refer dozens of alleged corruption cases to the prosecutor-general. Cases where the prosecutor-general found grounds to suspect former ministers were to be referred to the House for endorsement for trial by a special court and others were to be tried by the civil courts.

According to information available to the Jordan Times, the prosecutor-general subsequently submitted its findings to the House. At least six former ministers were suspected of complicity in some cases while other cases were dismissed by the prosecutor-general as lacking enough grounds for indictment of anyone.

Some cases where officials below the rank of minister were tried by the civil courts. Some cases are still pending in the courts.

Mr. Shbeilat said the Investigations Committee would not be able to continue its task of probing alleged corruption cases unless it was granted wider powers. He also noted that the committee's powers were determined before the first corruption case was moved for an unprecedented debate on the House floor.

"This committee should be a permanent one throughout the four-year term of Parliament rather than a new one elected for every regular session," he said. "The committee should meet all year round, and not just when Parliament is in session, and we should be given the authority to follow up on cases related to corruption," the deputy added, hoping that the house would vote on meeting these demands.

Mr. Shbeilat said he would quit the panel if its demands were not met. "We can neither investigate without jurisdiction nor to succeed with bringing up corruption cases to the House while we are tied up," he said.

Mr. Shbeilat noted that a report prepared by the prosecutor-general on the Al Jafri-Azraq Highway case and presented to the House in July 1990 had only found grounds to try Mr. Hawamdeh.

However, the deputy said, the House Investigations Committee decided on its own to expand the inquiries to include Mr. Rifai and Mr. Odeh after "receiving complaints that they were involved in the affair."

Mr. Shbeilat said that the committee should be able to respond to complaints by investigating and gathering information, or else "we would be serving corruption by not doing anything about it."

He added that the committee did not intend to try any former government officials, but that its job was to unveil corruption cases.

Mr. Shbeilat's press statement in reply to Mr. Rifai's was hard-hitting. Following is a Jordan Times translation of the communiqué:

"I read with dismay a statement issued by Mr. Zeid Rifai that was published in the local press on his escape from indictment by 17 members of parliament against 48 who levelled accusations at him and the abstention of six members from voting and the absence of seven members."

In his statement Mr. Rifai described the development as the success of "right" over "wrong," claiming that the Lower House rejected the false accusations against him although the House failed to normally indict Mr. Rifai due to procedural matters which require a two-thirds majority of the House. But the House has not acquitted Mr. Rifai at all.

If Mr. Rifai considers the accusations levelled against him by 67 per cent of the deputies present in the session as vindication, then such conclusion is for Mr. Rifai alone. In fact, their

approval by 67 per cent of the deputies of the charges against Mr. Rifai should be considered as the vote of the majority in the House. It means initial evidence has been gathered to refer Mr. Rifai to court trial before the Higher Council.

The number of Parliament members who voted against Mr. Rifai was even bigger than the number of votes required to give confidence in or bring down a government.

In a country where politicians have self-respect, a politician normally announces his retirement from political and public life over matters far less important than this development.

General de Gaulle withdrew from political life because he did not accept less than 67 per cent of the public votes supporting his programme. But in our country a former prime minister celebrates his accusation by 61 per cent of the lower House and receives congratulations from people because Parliament failed to secure another five per cent of the votes to indict him and claims that "right has triumphed over wrong."

I took note of the terms and the adjectives used by Mr. Rifai in describing the absolute majority of the House in a manner that does not fit a former statesman because in his statement he tried to cause a split within the ranks of the deputies, describing some to be honourable (17 of them) and the rest as dishonourable (implied) and that they do not fear God. By dishonourable, he of course meant those 48 deputies who openly accused him and the six who abstained from voting.

If Mr. Rifai is true in his claim that he loves his country and King, this should not motivate him into trying to draw a wedge within the ranks of the deputies, describing some people as honourable, loving their country and King because they defended him.

Mr. Rifai should not have accused his adversaries as being enemies of their country and King trying to encroach upon the ruling system and the regime as he said in his statement.

Mr. Rifai has claimed that the accusation by Parliament was not directed against him personally but was aimed at all of Jordan and directed against the Arab national message, a cause upheld by the King.

By giving such a statement, Mr. Rifai has tried to link himself with the King and with the Kingdom and its message. Does he mean that by accusing Mr. Rifai the House could be accusing the King himself?

Indeed this is a clear attempt at showing dissension and discord among the people of this country because this is an irresponsible attitude showing Mr. Rifai's total disloyalty to the King. The King's name should not be involved by anyone either in praise or calumny, particularly when corruption cases are under scrutiny.

Drought — good news for South Africa's big game?

By William MacLean

Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Severe drought is starting to kill South Africa's big game.

Hundreds of antelope and other grazing wildlife have begun to weaken and die in the parched plains of the north and east.

Hippo and crocodile face starvation.

Lion, leopard and hyena, while thriving as prey weakened by drought becomes easier to catch, have started killing one another in disputes over shrinking water-bearing territory.

But game experts and officials say that the survivors and the tourist industry that depends on them will emerge stronger from nature's onslaught.

"If you can divorce yourself from the impulse of sentiment, drought is really a very beautiful process," said Salomon Joubert, director of Kruger National Park, the largest game reserve.

"We are going to have losses of animals, but it is natural process affecting young, old and injured. You get a purification of the gene pool. It's a rejuvenating process."

The government-backed tourist organisation Satour says foreign tourism earned 2.7 billion rand (one billion dollars) in foreign currency in 1990 — the fifth largest earner behind manufactures, gold, mineral products and agricultural exports.

Kruger is an important element in South African efforts to capture a large slice of the growing international market for nature tourism.

The park's many species include 7,600 elephant — the animal most able to survive drought — about 2,000 lion, 2,500 hippo, 220 black rhino and 1,580 white rhino.

The government's Water Affairs Department said the northern Transvaal is in a critical situation "such as has not been seen in living memory. Natural pans and streams have dried up."

"Some areas have not had rain for two years and there has been no growth of perennial grasses," a statement said.

The flow of several rivers in drought areas including the Limpopo, Komati, Crocodile, Sabie, Vaal and Orange was "almost stagnant or has ceased completely."

The drought, however, has benefits for tourists.

Game viewing from waterless hides is as its most spectacular as animals desperate to drink gather from dwindling pools and rivers.

"The predators are having a field day with the weakened game and the viewing is wonderful," said Hugh Marshall, general manager of the luxury private Londolozi game reserve.

A more long-term benefit is a strengthening of the genetic stock of the country's wildlife because only the fittest and most fertile will survive.

"Competition between prides becomes very intense in these conditions," Mr. Joubert said, referring to the territorial disputes between the carnivores.

Tourism, officials say, will benefit as stronger, better-looking animals would boost South Africa's reputation among game viewing enthusiasts overseas.

"We want the animals to die naturally so the best strains come through," said Roland Geiger of the private M'bali reserve.

The Kruger in the eastern Transvaal lowlands bordering Mozambique has been less affected than the more than 1,000 game farms in the province's drier northern highlands.

The farms, unlike the reserves, make a living providing antelope for local and overseas hunters to kill for a price. They also ranch cattle or other commercial livestock.

"The game farms do not maintain predators like lion and also provide winter feed for their stock, so overpopulation and overgrazing is a problem" said Johan Pauw of the Pasture Research Institute in Pretoria. "Every blade of grass is chewed off so plants cannot reproduce."

Hym Ebedes of the government's Agricultural Development Department has advised game farmers to cull up to 60 per cent of their stock to conserve topsoil and grasses.

"A die-off of especially kudu and impala can be expected from mid-July. Heavy mortality can also be expected in waterbuck, giraffe and nyala populations," Mr. Ebedes said.

"Kudu, eland and impala feed on mopani bush, but that is becoming brown now and falling off the branch," said Seun de Swardt, a game farmer in the northern town of Messina.

Among the hippos in the northern Transvaal the drought is exacting a heavy toll.

David Barri of the International Fund for Animal Welfare said that 11 had died there despite emergency feeding by the army and 305 faced starvation.

"We saw 11 hippos including a baby gathered together in a pool the size of a suburban swimming pool," he added.

LAZY IN THE SUN: If lions, like most big game, thrive on drought-weakened prey, they also started killing each other over shrinking water bodies



LAZY IN THE SUN: If lions, like most big game, thrive on drought-weakened prey, they also started killing each other over shrinking water bodies



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Tide of Japan capital flows outward again

TOKYO (R) — After 18 months of seeing more money flow into Japan than out, Tokyo is again starting to export capital, recycling funds from its massive current account surplus to the rest of the world.

The reversal will come as a welcome relief to a world desperately short of funds for everything from rebuilding the economies of former communist nations to financing the U.S. budget deficit, economists have said.

"We are seeing a fundamental trend that should be sustained," said Peter Morgan, chief economist at Merrill Lynch Japan Inc.

In June, Japan posted its third consecutive monthly long-term capital account deficit, the first sign of a sustained capital outflow since late 1990.

Tokyo is widely viewed as the world's major potential provider of spare capital. Many development agencies and governments looked on with alarm when Japan actually consumed more money than it was sending abroad

throughout 1991 and the first quarter of 1992.

In the first half of 1991 Japan posted a long-term capital surplus of \$3.8 billion, a sharp reversal after the outflow of long-term capital peaked between 1986-1988, reaching an annual average of about \$130 billion, said Hirohiko Okumura, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute.

While the high capital export levels of the 1980s and a current account surplus expected to be around \$100 billion this year might suggest a return to another period of big exports, economists said the current flow outwards could be relatively tame.

In the end, Japan's long-term capital balance may not be determined by how much money it sends overseas, but by how much foreigners send here.

Japanese financial institutions may have little more demand for foreign stocks left after having built the portion of foreign stocks in their portfolios from about one per cent to five per cent during the 1980s.

Meanwhile, there is also huge demand for funds at home because of big capital investment planned to improve lifestyle.

The current shift is influenced

WB to monitor use of loan money in Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia will use \$1 billion in credits from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) exclusively to stabilize the country's hard-currency reserve, Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar said Friday.

The money cannot be "eaten up," Gaidar said in an interview with the Interfax News Agency.

The loan, together with \$600 million in credits from the World Bank (WB), are the first installments in a \$2.4 billion package in Western aid to Russia and the other former Soviet republics.

"The money has been slow in coming," the Director of the World Bank Office in Moscow, Andy Stoutjesdijk, acknowledged to Russian and foreign reporters.

Western governments, he said, have balked at committing their money before Russia stabilizes the ruble, which is falling fast against world currencies.

Gaidar, architect of Russia's economic reform, said stabilizing the hard-currency reserve will strengthen the economy and help make the ruble convertible.

"In a sense, Russia is very close to making the ruble convertible at the floating exchange rate," Gaidar said. He said that depends on "when we will be able to broaden the currency market and make this exchange rate stable."

Russian officials have said they eventually want to make the ruble convertible at a rate floating around 80 rubles to one dollar, about one-half of the current rate of 161.5 rubles to one dollar.

"I see no obstacles that might prevent us from passing to the next stage of the stabilization of the ruble, if we work in this direction in earnest," said Gaidar.

The World Bank has designated \$250 million of its \$600 million loan for imports for the health, agriculture, transport and energy sectors, Stoutjesdijk told a news conference.

Additional loans of \$500 million each are expected for agricultural and the energy industry by early next year, he said.

In the transport sector, \$50 million will go to the Port of St. Petersburg, gateway for most of the food and medical aid on its way to Russia. In addition, city buses throughout Russia are badly in need of spare parts, Stoutjesdijk said.

The Russian government wants to use some of the money to boost coal production, but Stoutjesdijk said World Bank officials would apply strict environmental standards before agreeing. Miners in Russia complain that the industry is unsafe and is a major source of pollution.

One of the toughest tasks facing Russia and the World Bank is food processing, which loses an estimated one-third of the harvest, Stoutjesdijk said.

The World Bank programme is expected to grow to \$2 billion next year and \$2.7 billion in future years, making it one of the largest scale assistance programmes ever, Stoutjesdijk said.

U.S. unemployment rate down

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. unemployment rate fell slightly to 7.7 per cent in July as a Federal Reserve Jobs Programme helped to send payroll employment up by the largest amount in two years, the government said Friday.

President Bush hailed the first dip in the jobless rate since April as good news that the country was "poised for a strong recovery."

But Bill Clinton, his Democratic opponent, and various private economists said the slight decline in the jobless rate did little to change their view that the economy was still in the doldrums.

The July figure represented a break after two straight months in which unemployment had worsened significantly, surging by 0.6 percentage point to an eight-year-high of 7.8 per cent in June.

The slight improvement last month still left 9.76 million Americans unemployed, down by 215,000 from the previous month, according to a survey of households.

A separate payroll survey said that the economy created 198,000 jobs in July, the biggest gain since May 1990, but manufacturing employment was essentially flat after a big drop the month before.

Widespread weakness continued in defense-related industries while construction posted a second straight monthly drop, falling 15,000.

All of the strength was located in services, with restaurants and bars posting good gains, and in

Financial Markets			
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 6/8/92	NEW YORK CLOSE 7/8/92	
Sterling Pound	1.9155	1.9295	
Deutsche Mark	1.4773	1.4668	
Swiss Franc	1.3280	1.3145	
French Franc	4.9905	4.9585	
Japanese Yen	127.65	127.50	
European Currency Unit	1.3720	1.3895	

Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.25	5.37
Sterling Pound	10.00	10.18	10.31
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.62	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.83	8.83	8.87
French Franc	9.93	9.12	9.18
Japanese Yen	4.08	4.04	3.84
European Currency Unit	10.68	10.62	10.56

Precious Metals			
Metal	UNIT/OUN	UNIT/OUN	UNIT/OUN
Gold	350.95	6.075	3.098
Silver			0.09

Currency		
	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.668	0.670
Sterling Pound	1.2877	1.2941
Deutsche Mark	0.4547	0.4570
Swiss Franc	0.5079	0.5104
French Franc	0.1246	0.1252
Japanese Yen	0.5232	0.5258
Dutch Guilder	0.4035	0.4055
Swedish Krona	0.1252	0.1258
Italian Lira	0.0601	0.0604
Belgian Franc	0.02209	0.02220

Other Currencies		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Libanese Lira	1.7430	1.7540
Lebanese Lira	0.0278	0.0305
Saudi Riyal	0.1775	0.1790
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.3200
Omani Riyal	0.1813	0.1825
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7030	1.7200
UAE Dirham	0.1813	0.1825
Greek Drachma	0.3700	0.4100
Cypriot Pound	1.2100	1.2270

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market			
Index	5/8/92	Close	29/7/92
AR-Share	140.59		139.79
Banking Sector	102.57		101.84
Insurance Sector	150.57		150.97
Industry Sector	192.89		192.54
Services Sector	184.70		179.26

Stocks surrender 29-point rally

NEW YORK (R) — A late bout of futures-linked selling knocked the wind out of a solid Wall Street rally on Friday, sending stocks to their fourth straight loss.

The Dow Jones industrial average, up as much as 29 points in the session, ended with a loss of 8.38 points at 3,332.18. For the week the Blue-chip Index lost 61.60 points after soaring more than 108 last week.

Losing shares outpaced gainers 914-770 on the New York stock

Pakistan wants Middle East Bank branches amalgamated

ABU DHABI (R) — Pakistan's Central Bank has asked a United Arab Emirates (UAE) bank to amalgamate into its own operations three Pakistan branches of Middle East Bank (MEB) which it acquired last year to save from bankruptcy, officials said.

Emirates Bank International Limited (EBI) acquired 99 per cent of MEB last December after it accumulated losses of about \$83 million (\$158.8 million). The Dubai government owns 80 per cent of EBI.

In a letter to shareholders, EBI Chairman Ahmad Al Tayer said MEB's Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad branches would be amalgamated into EBI operations from October 31, 1992.

"The State Bank of Pakistan has requested that the whole of the Pakistan operations of Middle

Greece privatises bus company

ATHENS (R) — The Greek Parliament passed a bill on Friday privatising the state-owned Athens Bus Company.

The bill, which passed with 50 votes for and 47 against, dissolved the urban transport company (EAS) and gave its buses to a group of private owners, parliament officials said.

Some 6,000 EAS employees have been on strike for about two weeks protesting against a decision to cut 1,200 jobs in order to reduce the company's \$1.5 billion debt.

All government vehicles were ordered this week to help carry commuters. Taxis are nearly impossible to find in the city and Athenians wait for hours at bus stops for the army trucks mobilised to replace buses.

The conservative government had warned the EAS union that it would privatise the company unless strikers returned to work. The union said it would remain on strike until the job cuts were cancelled.

According to the bill, two professional drivers would be able to buy one bus jointly and fares would be subsidised by the state. The government will form an organisation to oversee the operation of the new system and EAS workers will be the first to be employed.

Government sources said however that many EAS employees would be either forced into early retirement or fired.

KIO debt plan gets mixed response

MADRID (R) — Creditor banks home given a mixed response to debt repayment proposals made this week by Prima Inmobiliaria SA, another of the Kuwait Investment Office's (KIO) troubled Spanish holdings, banking sources said.

Two of the company's largest creditors, Banco Central Hispano SA and the state-owned Argentaria Group, declined to give written acceptance of the proposals and will undertake individual negotiations starting this week.

Other creditors, among the 60 banks attending a meeting called by Prima, have accepted the deal which involves delaying principal payments for two months until a more comprehensive debt restructuring plan can be worked out.

The KIO has undertaken to provide 3.5 billion pesetas (\$37 million) to service interest during the period on the loans, the bulk of which are covered by mortgage guarantees.

"There was a mixed response. There was a general agreement that there was no purpose in strangling the company but the point is some creditors are more affected than others," said one official at a leading Spanish bank creditor.

Central, with about six billion pesetas (\$63 million) in loans to the Prima Group, has told Prima it will accept the plan as far as upcoming principal payments on syndicated loans are concerned but wants to hear proposals on past due payments.

The sources said that at the meeting Prima had desisted from its proposal that banks form a steering committee. The banks did not want to be railroaded into a debt renegotiation.

At a first meeting on Wednesday, Prima told banks it wants a two-month respite until end September, by when a strategic study on KIO investments is due to be completed by Salomon Brothers. It then proposed to work out a detailed debt restructuring.

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Sarajevo Airport reopened despite attack on U.N. troops

SARAJEVO (R) — An international airlift of relief supplies to Sarajevo resumed Saturday despite a new attack on U.N. peacekeepers in which seven Ukrainian soldiers were wounded.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it had been granted permission by Serbs to visit a dozen camps in Bosnia where Muslim Croat prisoners are alleged to have been tortured and executed.

The United Nations reopened Sarajevo Airport which was closed Tuesday amid fighting between Bosnian Territorial Defence Forces and rebel Serbs opposed to the former Yugoslav republic's independence.

More than 20 flights were expected during the day to bring food and essential supplies for the 380,000 civilians trapped in Sarajevo by a four-month Serbian siege.

General Philippe Morillon, deputy commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) negotiated an agreement Friday with both sides to wind down fighting at the airport and the main road into the city.

U.N. spokesman Mik Magnusson said UNPROFOR was confident the agreement would hold because "the tone of the commitment (from commanders of the fighting forces) was a little more convincing."

The peacekeepers, who control the airport, have asked for more personnel to act as observers "so that we can maintain a round-the-clock presence at gun positions."

Gen. Morillon's negotiations with the warring sides came as the lightly-armed U.N. forces in Sarajevo came under renewed attack.

Five mortar bombs hit a U.N. barracks in Sarajevo Friday evening wounding seven Ukrainian

soldiers, two of them seriously. It was not clear whether the territorial defence, composed of Muslims and Croats, or Serbs were responsible.

Four French soldiers were hurt the previous day in a mortar attack on UNPROFOR headquarters and a Ukrainian soldier was killed earlier when a radar battery was shelled.

Sarajevo Radio said 10 civilians were killed and 30 wounded Friday night in an artillery bombardment of three Muslim quarters of the city, most of which is without power or water.

Bosnian Serbs, alarmed by growing accusations that they are running death camps in areas of Bosnia which they have captured since April, stepped up efforts to deflect the charges.

ICRC spokesman Matthias Kind said in Belgrade that Serb leader Radovan Karadzic had agreed to allow a full Red Cross inspection of 12 sites including Omarska where journalists saw emaciated prisoners behind barbed wire.

"We have been given the green light to go to any of the places on their list," he added. "Omarska is one of our priorities."

Red Cross officials are expected to inspect the Banja Luka area of northern Bosnia where Omarska and other suspected camps are located from Wednesday.

Bosnian officials allege that up to 17,000 Muslims and Croats have died in death camps but no independent evidence has yet been found to substantiate their claims.

More than 1.7 million refugees have been swept from their homes since April during fighting in which Serbs have conquered 70 per cent of Bosnian territory.

Detention camps have been set up by the Serbs to hold Muslims and

Croats driven from their communities in ethnic cleansing operations. Others hold men captured during fighting.

In a letter to the ICRC, Mr. Karadzic agreed to release all detainees aged over 60 and asked the Red Cross to obtain a similar agreement from Bosnian authorities.

Serbian authorities say 17,000 Serbs are being held in Muslim and Croat camps and that 6,000 have been killed.

Paddy Ashdown, leader of Britain's Liberal Democratic Party and a former command officer, was due to arrive Saturday to be shown Serb-run camps by Mr. Karadzic.

The death camp allegations have increased demands for the west to undertake military intervention in Bosnia against the Serbs despite the reluctance of many politicians in Europe and the United States.

Sarajevo is at the mercy of Serb artillery batteries which hold the hills surrounding the city and U.N. relief operations by road can operate only with the cooperation, frequently withheld, of Serb gunmen.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Saturday endorsed the use of force to protect relief convoys in Bosnia and called for more concerned European Community action to stop the fighting.

Former Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher also said a punitive U.N. trade embargo imposed on Serbia was ineffective and called for a total land blockade to give it teeth.

"I will once again approach my government colleagues in Europe to have the EC undertake considerably more than has been done so far in light of this terrible injustice happening in the centre of Europe," Mr. Kohl told the Welt Am Sonntag newspaper in an interview at his Austrian holi-

day retreat.

Mr. Kohl also backed U.S. President George Bush's quest to have Western troops under U.N. mandate protect humanitarian aid convoys from Serb forces in Bosnia but said the EC had to take initiatives of its own.

Meanwhile the United States and its NATO allies are considering military options to help deliver food and medicine to the besieged population of Bosnia-Herzegovina, diplomats said Friday.

Senior diplomats of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) have decided to ask military officials to begin making contingency plans for the possible use of force in case the United Nations asks for assistance, sources said.

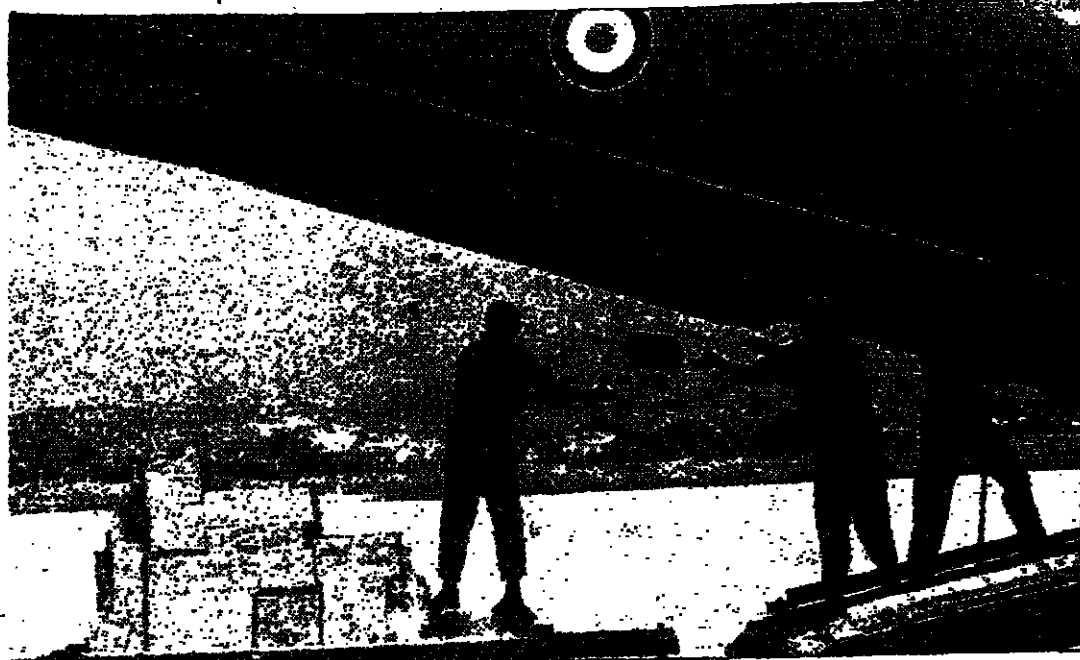
"NATO is reacting to a deterioration of the situation and an increasing consensus at the United Nations that more has to be done," said a diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"NATO is looking at various options of what assistance is necessary first and foremost to bring an end to the suffering and bring some relief," he said.

No political decisions have been made. The alliance's decision-making council is not scheduled to meet until September, although an emergency session could be called.

A senior Yugoslav army officer warned Friday that foreign military intervention in Bosnia to quell the Serb rebellion could spread war to other parts of Europe.

Ljubodrag Stojadinovic, the army's official spokesman, said: "Any foreign intervention in Bosnia would be irrational from a military, strategic and political point of view. It could spark fighting elsewhere in the Balkans and Europe."



Long awaited food is unloaded at Sarajevo Airport

Armenian offensive frees besieged town

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Armenian forces captured two Azerbaijani villages after mounting a cross-border offensive into the neighbouring republic, Azerbaijan Defence Ministry reported Friday.

The report, carried by the Azerbaijani News Agency Turan, said that Armenian units backed by armoured personnel carriers last night moved forward from their positions in the Armenian region of Krassnoselsk, attacking the area of Kedabek in Azerbaijan.

The Armenians moved five to six kilometres (three to three and a half miles) deep into the Azerbaijani territory, attacking two Russian and three Azerbaijani villages, and capturing the villages of Mutudara and Isali, the Defence Minister said.

It said fierce fighting was under way in the region but had no exact casualty figures.

The report said the Armenian offensive appeared to be aimed at opening a second land corridor linking Armenia with the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Pro Armenia News Agency and Moscow's Channel One television said Armenian forces have reached the Armenian-populated town of Artsvashen, situated within Azerbaijan, and evacuated about 600 people.

The television station showed pictures of Armenian tanks and bearded fighters moving through

the half-destroyed village.

"For the last seven days, the village was cut off completely from Armenia. This was impossible and unbearable... now we control the village and the road to it and if needed, we will defend it forever," one unidentified fighter said in the televised report.

Azerbaijani forces Thursday night shelled the land corridor in the Lachin area, killing one person, the Moscow-based Nega News Agency reported.

Nagorno-Karabakh, the site of a four-year war, is an Armenian region located within Azerbaijan and controlled by it since 1923. More than 2,000 people have died in the fighting since 1988, with hundreds killed this spring and summer alone.

In Nagorno-Karabakh itself, Armenian units broke through Azerbaijani defence lines and seized a number of strategic heights near the northeastern town of Agdere, the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry reported.

Nagorno-Karabakh parliament spokesman Gegam Bagdasaryan said Armenians have repelled an Azerbaijani offensive in the area of Mardakert. He said the attack, which started Thursday, involved 30 tanks and three combat helicopters.

Mr. Bagdasaryan said the Armenians destroyed 3 T-72 tanks and downed two Mi-24 helicopters. At least 60 Azerbaijani fighters were killed, while the Armenians suffered eight

dead and 23 wounded, he said.

There was no immediate comment from the Azerbaijani side.

Meanwhile, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan accused Azerbaijan of committing "acts against the people of Karabakh" and border regions of Armenia with the goal of undermining a possible peace settlement.

In his appeal to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, carried by the Armenian Snark News Agency, Mr. Ter-Petrosyan blamed the Russian army for handing over a significant amount of military equipment to Azerbaijan. On Friday, Azerbaijani officials made similar accusations against Armenia.

Meanwhile a temporary ceasefire was in force between the Azeri enclave of Nakhichevan and Armenia, Geidar Aliyev, president of the enclave said Saturday.

Mr. Aliyev told the semi-official Turkish News Agency Anatolian by telephone that no fighting had occurred in the town of Sadarak, near the Turkish border, for the past three days, except for occasional firing from the Armenian side.

"We will meet again with the Armenian envoy at the border next week. I think we can secure a permanent ceasefire agreement after this meeting," he told the agency.

It was not clear when the first border talks were held.

10 top commanders killed in Sri Lanka blast

COLOMBO (AP) — The top government commander in northern Sri Lanka and nine other top officers were killed in a land mine explosion Saturday, officials said.

It was the most serious blow to Sri Lankan government forces in two years in their war with Tamil separatist guerrillas.

Killed in the blast were Maj. Gen. Denzil Kobekaduwa, commander of the military's operations against Tamil Tiger guerrillas, and Brig. Gen. Vijaya Wimalaratne, the commander of the military task force in the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula.

The explosion occurred Saturday morning in Kayatis Island off the coast of the rebel-held Jaffna

peninsula. The government retreated the island from the Tamil guerrillas in fighting last November.

It was not immediately clear whether the landmine was planted by the Tamils to kill the officers or whether it was left over from earlier campaigns.

The nine exploded as the officers were driving toward a helicopter to fly back to the Jaffna peninsula after touring the island, said military officials in Colombo who cannot be quoted under briefing rules.

Gen. Kobekaduwa, 52, was hit in the head and the legs by shrapnel, said the officials. He died several hours after being

blown to a hospital in Colombo.

Other victims included Commodore Mohan Jayamaha, the naval commander in the north, and three lieutenant colonels, said the officials.

Gen. Kobekaduwa, 52, was to become the army chief in January and had been part of the government's offensive against Tiger rebels for about eight years. At least 17,000 people have been killed since the fighting began in 1983.

In a communique issued in Colombo, 320 kilometres (200 miles) south of the where the explosion occurred, the Defence Ministry appealed to the public to "remain calm."

Bush buoyed by employment figures

LA CROSSE, Wisconsin (Agencies) — Slightly improved employment figures boosted President Bush's re-election campaign Friday as poll-leader Bill Clinton rolled along on his second bus-stop campaign across America's heartland.

In Washington, Mr. Bush said the economy is "poised for a strong recovery," Mr. Clinton, in Wisconsin, urged new business investment incentives to create jobs.

The Labour Department said the unemployment rate dipped slightly to 7.7 per cent in July as payroll jobs took their biggest leap upward in more than two years. Analysts cautioned that much of the strength stemmed from a temporary federal programme that provided summer jobs.

But said the news was "fairly good" but added, "I simply could not be satisfied until every American who wants a job has one," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Clinton and running mate Al Gore were wrapping up their three-day bus tour through the Midwest.

Mr. Clinton said the large crowds he and Gore attract show Americans are hoping for change.

"You know America wants to see people who want to serve..." the Democratic presidential nominee said at a riverfront rally in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Friday. "They're tired of politicians being distant from them and not listening and not being in touch..."

A chat with the folks in the Clinton-Gore crowds shows that not all of them are sold on the

Democratic ticket. Some said they wanted a look first, and haven't decided. More said they really wanted to get close to a man who might be president, in small town territory that seldom sees White House-level politics.

But the Democrats have been running 25 points or more ahead of Mr. Bush and Vice-President Dan Quayle in the polls, and surveys indicate that voter concern about a spurring economy is a major reason.

Mr. Bush said low interest rates and low inflation were signs that the economy was in position to make gains and said Americans should know that.

"I'd like to see them understand that there are some very strong signs here that are good," Mr. Bush said. "That doesn't mean there are no problems."

Mr. Bush devoted most of the news conference to the strife in what was Yugoslavia and declined to say just how that might affect reported plans for Secretary of State James Baker to move to the White House to take charge of the faltering Republican campaign.

As for Mr. Clinton's foreign stands, Mr. Bush said, "I have no problem with his offering advice on these matters, but I'm not going to get engaged in the political arena when we are trying to do something... that is very important."

As an afterthought, Mr. Bush said that following the Aug. 17-20 Republican national convention, he would "take the issues to him, to define his background, to tell as it really is and fight for the issues that I believe in."

"You're going to see hard-hitting attacks that are going to fairly define his positions," Mr. Bush said.

Meanwhile Bush campaign Deputy Manager Mary Matalin, in an apparent contradiction of a White House statement, said Friday she had not apologised for a controversial memo criticising Mr. Clinton.

Ms. Matalin, whose memo accused the Clinton campaign of spending taxpayer dollars to investigate, "bimbo eruptions," also said in a T.V. interview that her criticisms "hit the mark" and that President George Bush thought them to be "perfectly legitimate."

The president "was not upset. He said it was perfectly legitimate," Ms. Matalin said on the Evans and Novotna Interview show about the memo in which she referred to Mr. Clinton's alleged extramarital affairs.

"He didn't want me to stop. He hoped that my enunciation in defending him... in the future would not cross over the line," Ms. Matalin said in describing a conversation with Mr. Bush after the memo.

Bush campaign spokeswoman Torie Clarke said Friday that Mr. Bush was describing Ms. Matalin's activities in general — rather than the reference to "bimbo eruptions" — as "perfectly legitimate."

She said the president was referring "to Mary's effort to keep the Clinton campaign straight and honest and legitimate."

Ms. Matalin's campaign memo released to the press Sunday set off a firestorm with its reference to "bimbo eruptions."

S. Africa to probe massacre cover-up

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government promised Friday to appoint a judicial commission to investigate an alleged police cover-up of a 1988 massacre of township blacks.

"A judicial commission will be appointed as soon as possible," a Law and Order Ministry spokesman said. He gave no more details.

The move follows demands by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) that the white-led security forces be purged of lawless elements and brought under control.

A white police captain ordered four black constables to fire on the Trust Feed black settlement in December 1988 in Natal province. Eleven people died, including women and children.

Last May a prominent judge sentenced the captain to death and accused police of mishandling the case in an apparent high-level cover-up.

The ANC has long accused the police and white government of

complicity in township violence in which some 12,000 people have died since 1984.

South Africa newspapers reported Friday that an attorney-general investigating the 1985 killing of anti-apartheid activist Matthew Goniwe discovered a "potentially explosive" document linking a cabinet minister with the case.

The Sowetan said the document revealed that Adriaan Vlok, then deputy law and order minister and now correctional services minister, had chaired a special meeting of the State Security Council which dealt with Mr. Goniwe's case just before he died.

Mr. Vlok denied Saturday that he was involved in the 1985 murder of Goniwe.

He said in a statement he had headed a committee that considered action against Mr. Goniwe, but said he was not behind his death.

"Some reports imply that I might possibly have been in-

volvement in the murder of Mr. Goniwe in 1985. I deny most strongly that I was involved in any way," Mr. Vlok, who is now the minister in charge of prisons, said.

District Attorney General Michael Hogen, appointed by President F.W. De Klerk earlier this year to reopen enquiries into Mr. Goniwe's murder, said Friday he was examining new evidence on the killing.

He deduced to say who was implicated in the new testimony from witnesses produced by unidentified newspapers.

Mr. Goniwe, a leading anti-apartheid activist, and two others were found dead near a highway north of Port Elizabeth in 1985.

The New Nation newspaper published a copy earlier this year of an alleged death warrant signed by a senior policeman and citing the cabinet-level State Security Council as the authority for an order to have Mr. Goniwe "removed from society."

Meanwhile the African Nation-

al Congress Friday ruled out a quick resumption of multiracial democracy talks with the white minority South African government and vowed to continue its mass protest campaign.

"It is premature to speculate about the resumption of negotiations," the ANC said in a statement.

"The government must make a clear commitment to a sovereign, democratically-elected Constituent Assembly. It will also have to take practical steps to curb the violence... unless these issues are addressed by the government negotiations cannot continue."

Local commentators had suggested that the ANC, which received massive black support for a general strike and public rallies earlier this week, might be ready to resume the talks it broke off in June.

The ANC says about four million people observed the strike it called Monday and Tuesday. More than 100,000 blacks took part in marches through major cities Wednesday.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mozambique civil war to end in 7 weeks

ROME (R) — President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and rebel Afonso Dhlakama sealed an accord Friday to end 16 years of civil war by Oct. 1, ending three days of talks with an emotional embrace. "This is a historic day for the people of Mozambique and Africa... Please. No more deaths. No more war," Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, who brought the two foes together for the first time, said after the signing ceremony. Mr. Chissano, who called the rebel leader "dear brother," expressed regret that the fighting was not ending at once, despite his offer of an immediate armistice. "It would undoubtedly have been more honourable if our meeting had meant the end of the war, today... There is no reason why the guns should not fall silent," Mr. Chissano said. "Although the war will continue a little longer, the fact that we know it will end by Oct. 1 is a consolation."

Greek premier reshuffles cabinet

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Constantine Mitsotakis Friday reshuffled his cabinet for the third time in two years by relinquishing his post as foreign minister and streamlining his finance ministries. The reshuffle gives National Economy Minister Stefanos Manos a second portfolio as finance minister and moves Justice Minister Michalis Papaconstantinou to the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The new administration consists of 33 ministers and undersecretaries, one less than the previous cabinet. Mr. Manos' additional portfolio is expected to help the conservative government coordinate its economic policies following Greece's approval of the Maastricht Treaty on European unity last week. Mr. Mitsotakis had held the Foreign Ministry post since April after dismissing Andonis Samaras following disagreement over his handling of Greece's efforts to block EC recognition of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Former Spanish foreign minister dies

MADRID (R) — Former Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez died of cancer at his Madrid home, his doctor said. He was 62. Family Doctor Carlos Sanz said Mr. Ordóñez, who stepped down as foreign minister in June after seven years in the post, had slipped into an irreversible coma during the night. Mr. Ordóñez's tenure of the Foreign Ministry capped a distinguished career in politics in which he helped steer Spain to membership of the European Community in 1986. He had been ill for several years and underwent surgery late last year. Mr. Ordóñez could claim responsibility for putting Spain firmly on the world map during his years as foreign minister.

Rutskoi stirs up dispute with Ukraine

MOSCOW (AP) — While President Boris Yeltsin was vacationing Vice President Alexander Rutskoi poked his finger into a political hornet's nest by declaring that the Crimea should belong to Russia, not Ukraine. "I do not recognise any agreements" that give historic Russian lands to other countries, Mr. Rutskoi told a gathering of Cossack chieftains in pre-revolutionary uniforms and tall leather boots. Mr. Rutskoi's remarks were certain to stir up Russian-Ukrainian tensions, which Mr. Yeltsin had tried to reduce before leaving Wednesday for a two-week holiday on the Black Sea. The 44-year-old vice president, a former air force pilot and Afghanistan war hero, has staked out a political position that is far more nationalist and hawkish than Mr. Yeltsin's. Six months ago, he criticised the president's reluctance to use force to quell unrest and attacked the young economists in Mr. Yeltsin's government as "young boys in pink shorts."

Exiled king to visit Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's exiled ex-King Michael will tour the country next week in the midst of election campaigning. Bucharest Radio said Saturday. King Michael's tour will include Timisoara, cradle of the December 1989 revolution, and Brasov, a Transylvanian city where workers staged the first anti-Communist revolt in 1987. It coincides with campaigning for Sept. 27 presidential and parliamentary elections in which Communists who still wield power in Romania are fighting for their political survival. King Michael was dethroned and banished by a Soviet-installed Communist regime in 1947. He lives in Switzerland.

KGB did not recruit Oswald — paper

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet KGB never recruited the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, but watched him believing he was a Western spy, a newspaper has reported. Lee Harvey Oswald was kept under constant watch while he lived in Minsk from 1959 to 1962, and might have been drugged to make him talkative in open conversation, the newspaper Izvestia reported. Oswald, who married a Soviet woman, worked in a Minsk factory and returned to the United States a few months before Mr. Kennedy's 1963 assassination. The Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination, concluded that Oswald, acting alone, killed Mr. Kennedy, and found no evidence of Soviet complicity. But questions remain. Izvestia reported that Oswald arrived in the Soviet Union on Oct. 15, 1959, and asked the Soviet authorities the following day for political asylum. His request was denied.

COLUMN

Q E runs aground, then refloated off Cape Cod

BOSTON, Massachusetts (R) — The luxury liner Queen Elizabeth 2 ran aground off Cape Cod in the northeast United States Friday but the ship was refloated within hours and there were no injuries among the 2,800 passengers and crew, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The 13-story floating hotel operated by Cunard Lines Ltd grounded at 10:20 p.m. (0220 GMT Saturday) four miles south of the Elizabeth Islands at the southernmost tip of Cape Cod while sailing for New York. "It's at anchor right now. It's not aground anymore, it's at anchor," a Coast Guard spokeswoman said early Saturday. A Coast Guard cutter, several smaller ships and a helicopter were quickly sent to the scene but no attempts were made to evacuate anyone aboard the ship. Damage to the ship was not immediately known but the spokeswoman said an earlier report of a fuel leak were being investigated but could not be confirmed.

Molester who wanted castration gets life sentence

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — A child molester who once offered to be castrated in exchange for probation was sentenced to life in prison Friday by a U.S. jury who earlier convicted him of raping a 12-year-old girl. Steven Butler, 28, blinked back tears and his family became hysterical as the sentence was handed down in state district court. A jury found Mr. Butler guilty after hearing testimony from witnesses who included the girl he raped. Mr. Butler's case garnered international attention when black leaders attacked judge Michael McSpadden for agreeing to give Mr. Butler probation in exchange for castration. They called the arrangement racist and, ultimately, it fell through because no physical would perform the procedure to remove Mr. Butler's testicles. Butler, a married shoeshine man and porter who could be eligible for parole in 15 years, already was on probation for sexually molesting a 7-year-old girl in 1989 when he was indicted for raping the 12-year-old. He suggested the castration deal after reading a newspaper article in which McSpadden praised castration as an alternative to prison for sex offenders. McSpadden removed himself from the case before it went to trial.

India to ban smuggling of child jockeys

NEW DELHI (R) — India said Friday it would introduce a law banning the export of children to Gulf emirates where they are used as jockeys in camel races, a popular Arab sport. Minister of State For External Affairs R. L. Bhatia told the Rajya Sabha (upper house of parliament) that 20 Indian children had been rescued by Indian diplomats in the Gulf so far. Indian police say young boys are strapped to the camels and their terrified shrieks prompt the beasts to run faster in the races. Their light weight is also an asset in the competitions, often patronised by members of the local royal families. Mr. Bhatia said the police had been asked to investigate a network of child smugglers that exports the children to the Gulf.

Graham Bell house to be sold by U.S. phone company

DENVER, Colorado (R) — The historic home of Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone, has been put up for sale by a U.S. telephone company. Asking price for the four-bedroom antique house is \$2.75 million, making it the highest priced property in the exclusive Georgetown section of the U.S. capital. Bell purchased the house in 1881 for his father, Alexander Melville Bell. The younger Bell set up a small research laboratory in the carriage house but never spent much time there, a spokeswoman for the company, U.S. West, said. The Bells kept the house until 1920. U.S. West, one seven companies created after the court-ordered breakup of the U.S. telephone monopoly in the 1980s, bought the house in 1986 for \$1.5 million and spent \$2.5 million restoring it for business functions and visiting executives. Built in 1853, the house also has two large parlours, a library, a large kitchen and a carriage house.